

APRIL SPEAKER

Spring Time Surf Fishing!

It won't be long before the winter storm surf turns into the quiet tranquil waves of summer and the Corbina start to spawn in the gin coastal waters. It is a wonderful time of the year to spend an early morning or late afternoon wading knee deep in the surf with a fly rod in hand.

Our April Speaker is **Frank Selby**. Frank is the "His" half of the His & Her Flyfishing Shop in Huntington Beach. (Frank's wife, Beverly, is the "Her" half.) Frank has spent his lifetime fishing all over the world for both fresh and saltwater game fish.

These days he spends most of his time fishing and guiding his clients along the costal waters from Huntington Beach to Costa Mesa. Frank will share his techniques for success in the surf and some of his favorite fly patterns (many of which you may be able to win in the raffle!).

Come join us and learn how to succeed in the surf with a fly rod rather than a surfboard!

REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for the
April meeting

(report at 6:15 PM):

**Willie Randel, Bob
Miller, Jack Bentley**

Thank you, Mona Morebello

Steelhead of the Santa Ynez

CalTrout Scrutinizes USBR's Fish Management Plan

by Craig Fusaro
CalTrout Board Member

When I first heard there might be steelhead in my backyard river, my first reaction was one of disbelief; "No way, Southern California doesn't have steelhead!" And then I learned the truth. Seeing is believing, as the old saying goes. When a friend and former student of mine took me out below Bradbury Dam on the 96-mile long Santa Ynez River (Santa Barbara County) on Super Bowl Sunday, 1993, I became a believer. There they were: 5 to 7 pound steelhead spawning over their redd. That sight began for me what has been (so far) an eight year journey through the byzantine world of natural resource and water law, water politics, and interminable meetings.

As it turns out, the Santa Ynez River had, as recently as the 1940's, the largest run of steelhead in Southern California. Leo Shapovalov, "dean" of steelhead biology from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), estimated a run size between

13,000 and 20,000 fish in wet years. And this estimate was after two dams had already been built on the river. One, Gibraltar, built in 1920, cut off perhaps a third of the best spawning and rearing habitat. It wasn't until Bradbury Dam was built in 1952, however, that steelhead lost the vast majority of the rest, leaving 10 to 15 mainstem miles and a few paltry tributaries to sustain the run below the dam.

In August of 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed this run along with all the other rivers between Santa Maria and Malibu, as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, NMFS inappropriately excluded all of the habitat above Bradbury Dam in the Listing. NMFS also failed to designate the absolutely essential historic spawning and rearing habitat above all the dams in the Southern ESU (evolutionarily significant unit) when critical habitat was designated this year. NMFS did finally publish a Biological Opinion regarding continued operations of Bradbury Dam in September, 2000.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), owner of Bradbury Dam, along with contracting water agencies, under orders from the State Water Board, began a series of studies of fish and vegetation below the Dam. They wrote a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create a "Con-

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, April 2, 2001

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

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We solved the mystery...**Jan Kuwahara** is, and has always been, a man. And a darn good man at that. **Jim Reeg** invited me to join him and the Kuwahara's at dinner. I arrived at the restaurant (Islands, we spare no expense trying to impress our speakers!) and saw a guy in an SUV sorting

through a fly box. I took the chance that this was our speaker and walked over to the "ute" to say hello. Thank goodness that there are folks like Jan in our sport. Thoughtful, observant sportsmen who are willing to share 30 years of knowledge. He discussed fly selection, presentation and reading the water and some of that water included a couple of our favorite fishing destinations, Hat Creek and Hot Creek.

Jan proved to be a good sport in another fashion. Before we introduced him as our speaker, Jan, his wife and **Dave Collins**, all stood up and said: "I am Jan Kuwahara." The punch line, of course, was: "Would the real Jan Kuwahara please stand up." Stand up he did, to the immense benefit of our club.

The next time you see **Larry Sorensen** give him a hearty handshake and some words of thanks. Larry lobbied the board to spend more money on prizes at the monthly raffle and used a sort of "Field of Dreams" logic...if we buy it they will come with fistfuls of raffle tickets. To date his logic has been flawless and results nothing short of spectacular.

From the desk of **Sam & Mona Morebello**. The erstwhile educators, now enjoying retirement, are indulging their twin passions of golf and fly-fishing. They sent this snippet from "Maximum Golf" magazine: "**TROUT 'N' ABOUT** At the Links at Teton Peaks, a new golf course in Driggs, Idaho, the owner plans to leave fly rods on several holes that abut the on-course ponds." Mona, the resident wit, added this note: "Is fly-fishing a great



JIM TENUTO

sport or what? Question: where will the 'yuppie golfers' put their cell phones and cigars while they cast?" Actually I have a suggestion, they can shove them up their...oops, this is a family publication.

A pair of Annual Raffle notes: Our Annual Raffle will be held in June. Yes, it

seems like ages away, but we'll be listening to perennial emcee **Bill Stroud** before you know it. So, a couple of notes. Both have to do with the generosity of club members. First, every year a large number of club members donate equipment (new and used) and gift certificates, art, free dinners at local restaurants, and other goodies to the raffle. I'd like to encourage those who have always been generous to continue to do so, and ask those who haven't and feel so inclined to join the ranks of happy donors. You may deliver those donations to **Kevin Sophy, Annual Raffle Czar**. Second, we need your help as club members regarding our membership list. When we ask merchants for donations they sometimes respond by asking us for a membership list. In the past we have done so, with the approval of the general membership. We have fallen away from that practice and it has meant a reduction in the "generosity" of the merchants.

Here's what we'd like to propose. If you don't want your name on the "merchant membership/mailling list" please complete the form in this issue of *Finny Facts* (page 7). We will take your name off that list. But before you do give it some thought. Most catalog merchants are


very sophisticated these days, so the chances of duplicate mailings are usually remote. And, the more the better. The more names we send the better the gift from the merchant. Finally, we do send the list out unless a specific merchant asks.

I'm writing this on a Sunday morning, and I just finished **Ed Zieralski's** outdoors column in *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. This particular issue was about cheating in bass tournaments. Sort of put me off my feed.

For those with a thoughtful bent, the question of why we fish is nearly as important as the fishing itself. Though we may never be able to articulate those feelings to others, especially those that do not fish and don't understand why we do, that doesn't mean we'll cease that satisfying contemplation.

But I can tell you a few things of what fishing is not...at least for me. Fishing is not about roaring around lakes in overpowered boats throwing out wakes that can capsize float tubers. Fishing is not donning a shirt covered with logos. Fishing is not about "hawgs" and claiming to be a "bassbuster", nor is about "ripping lips". Fishing is not about how many I caught and how big they are. Fishing is not about cashing a check for prize money. Fishing is not about "one fly contests". Fishing is not a contest, or a competition, or a test of manhood or womanhood or even childhood. And it's sure not what I saw represented in Ed's column.

So let's end this on a happier note. Last Sunday I spent the morning with the members of the casting clinic. It was a cool morning at Lake Murray, and **Ned Sewell**, sporting a very fine cowboy hat, was deep into his lecture while a number of the other club stalwarts sat around in a circle swapping lies, stories and coffee.

Dear Mr. Zieralski: This is what fishing is all about. 



Treasurer's Report

by Warren Lew

A characteristic that I've always liked about our club, is that our meetings are open to the public with out charge. Anyone interested in our sport is welcome, and you don't have to be a member to hear the nationally known fly fishing authors and guides that we invite to be our guest speakers.

When I was a new member, I appreciated being able to check out the fly tying videos from our club's video library, which is available through the efforts of John Gauld. In addition, I learned how to tie flies in the Club's beginning fly tying class.

Your dues and mine, made this and much more possible... and here's a summary of how your money was spent last year.

2000 Income

Membership Dues	\$ 9,170.00
Annual Raffle	\$ 5,530.00
Monthly Raffle	\$ 3,570.00
Interest	\$ 360.00
Other	\$ 1,780.00

Total Income	\$20,410.00
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2000 Expenses

Guest Speakers	\$ 4,960.00
Finny Facts Newsletter	\$ 3,980.00
Annual Raffle	\$ 1,970.00
Monthly Raffle	\$ 2,125.00
Meeting Room Rent	\$ 1,180.00
Insurance	\$ 530.00
Clothing Purchases	\$ 1,920.00
Other	\$ 1,480.00

Total Expenses	\$18,145.00
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The 2001 Budget, approved at the Board's last meeting, is as follows:

2001 Income

Membership	\$12,000.00
Annual Raffle	\$ 5,000.00
Monthly Raffle	\$ 3,300.00
Clothing Sales	\$ 500.00
Fly Tying Classes	\$ 400.00
Interest	\$ 350.00
Other	\$ 100.00

Total Income	\$21,650.00
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2001 Expenses

Finny Facts Newsletter	\$ 4,000.00
Annual Raffle	\$ 2,500.00
Monthly Raffle	\$ 2,750.00
Speaker's Program	\$ 3,000.00
Fly Tying Classes	\$ 400.00
Conservation	\$ 2,000.00
Annual Banquet	\$ 700.00
Administration	\$ 3,500.00
Resource Library	\$ 600.00
Other	\$ 200.00
Reserve	\$ 2,000.00

Total Expenses	\$21,650.00
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If you have any questions about how the Club spent it's money last year, please don't hesitate to ask me or any other Board member about any of your concerns.





JACK BENTLEY

**Any Questions?
Call Jack Bentley at**

Plan Now for the San Juan River Trip October 15-20.

Start making your plans now for this exciting annual trip to New Mexico's San Juan River in the Fall. Jack is making all of the arrangements so you know you'll get the best trip for the best price! Put it on your calendar NOW!

Steelhead of Santa Ynez

continued from page 1

sensus Committee" and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that has studied the river below the dam since 1993. We have been monitoring this work since before its inception .

A final "Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan" has been submitted to the State Water Board (SWB), and hearings began this month. Phase II of the hearings will consider the Plan and fish flows next Spring, after a SWB-mandated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is done.


California Trout will be there to address a number of shortcomings in the Plan. One is clearly identified in the title: "...Lower River ..." It remains a mystery to us how USBR, DFG, and NMFS propose to recover the Santa Ynez River steelhead run using only 10-15% of its historic spawning and rearing habitat. Even Houdini wouldn't have enough smoke and mirrors. Fish passage, both up and down, is essential to reconnect the resident and anadromous forms as the species evolved to do. This is the only way to maintain the genetic diversity and integrity known to reside in the Southern steelhead, the progenitor of west coast steelhead runs since the last glacial period (for a primer

on Southern steelhead biology see:

<http://www.rain.org/~audubon/sbassteelhead>

Other essential pieces of information that cannot be found in the Plan, nor the Opinion, are measurable performance criteria for the proposed Plan actions and flow regime. We will ask the SWB to order these measurable criteria for fish numbers in the River before they accept the plan or certify the EIR. Simply stating that X feet of tributary habitat will be restored, or Y passage barriers will be removed below the Dam, does not tell us how many fish are expected to be sustained by the proposed flow regime. And the flows proposed are predicated on the success of an environmental analysis of the possibility of surcharging the Dam an extra three feet to gain water not currently "owned" by any water purveyor. It's a "lick and a promise," not a water commitment.

The importance of these issues to recovering steelhead in Southern California cannot be understated: the USBR owns dams on all three of the major rivers in the Southern ESU. Establishing their Public Trust responsibility to recover what has been lost on the Santa Ynez, the Ventura,

and the Santa Clara Rivers (about 90% of the entire habitat for steelhead in the ESU) is essential to real, not "token," recovery of these amazing fish. And the Bureau has many, many other dams in California. California Trout intends to continue being there every step of the way on this one. Find out what you can do to help. Contact Jim Edmondson at or at 

FLY CASTING AT LAKE MURRAY

Spring has sprung. Local fishing is at its peak. Now would be a good time to learn to flycast or just improve your skills. Join the San Diego Fly Fishers every Sunday morning from 9 AM until noon.

(See map on back page for location).



FLY OF THE MONTH

WHITLOCK FOX SQUIRREL

Hook:	TMC 3761 or any 1X long 2X heavy nymph hook – size 10 – 18
Thread:	Black 8/0 or 6/0
Tail:	Red Fox Squirrel guard hairs
Rib:	Small gold oval tinsel or gold wire
Body:	Half red fox squirrel fur and half tan antron mixed
Hackle:	Brown partridge
Thorax:	Red fox squirrel fur guard hairs



1. Wrap the hook shank with a layer of thread. If you weight the fly, tie in the lead wire covering the center 3/5 of the hook shank. Cut a small bunch of hair and guard fur from a fox squirrel skin. Remove some of the under fur. Measure the hair half the length of the shank and tie it in at the bend. Cut off the excess tail. Tie in the ribbing.
2. Dub the body. I use a premixed dubbing – Dave Whitlock's SLF Red Fox Squirrel Nymph – Abdomen and SLF Red Fox Squirrel Nymph – Thorax for the body and thorax. Taper the body two thirds to three fourths the length of the shank. Wrap the ribbing over the body in 4 to 5 evenly spaced turns and tie off.
3. Dub the thorax. It should be darker and fatter than the body.
4. Tie in a brown partridge or a brown hen saddle feather and make one or two turns in front of the thorax. Trim the excess. Wrap a neat thread head and whip finish. This fly should be tied buggy. If needed use your bodkin to pick out some of the dubbing.

The ribbing and the hackle can be omitted on small flies – size 16 or smaller.

I like the fly tied "in the round" so it looks the same regardless of where it is in the drift. It can also be tied with a bead head.

In Dave Hughes' book "Trout Flies" Dave writes that he fishes this pattern mostly in sizes 14 and 16 without the ribbing and the hackle.

This is the last of the flies Dave Hughes refers to as his "Basic Four Searching Nymphs."

I must give credit to Dave Hughes and his fine book "Trout Flies" for helping me with the last four "Flies of the Month".

Tom Smith



Howdy friends and Sierra Drifters. May this report find you all healthy and happy. The sun is out in all its glory for the first time in what seems

likeweeks. As I gaze out over Crowley Lake from my vantage point on McGee Creek here in the Eastern Sierra, I see a small sliver of ice-free water starting to emerge near the inlet to McGee Bay. Several types of songbirds, not heard since last fall, have returned to their feeders here. How so many diverse chirps and warbles can sound so

harmonious always astounds me. Spring is budding and with all the recent snowfall bringing the Sierra's snow pack to near normal, I am thinking ahead of all the great fishing opportunities we will have this upcoming season.

Fishing has been very good in general since our last report. The bitter cold we experienced this winter has given way to cool morning temps with pleasant daytime highs. The Owens Valley picked up a significant amount of rainfall since our prior report. The dirt myriad of roads are not mudpits, but should be considered before traversing. Remember the true definition of 4 wheel drive; takes you further in to get stuck!

The extended weather forecast is for a warming trend with cloudless, sunny days this week. Another front is expected by next weekend. You can expect daytime highs in the valley to reach the mid-60's, with the lows being around freezing. This is a wonderful time of year to fish the Eastern Sierra. I truly hope you all get the opportunity to visit us soon.

Lower Owens River: Wild trout and drift boat sections Good-very good. Flows are up a tad since the last report. Currently they are flowing at 180cfs. By

the way, we have added a link to the L.A. Department of Water and Power real time website and the U.S. Geological Survey

SIERRA DRIFTERS



TOM LOE

website for the East Walker River. You can log on to <http://sierradrifters.com> and click on fish report for this information 24 hours a day. At this flow rate the wade fishing is still very good. I would anticipate the flows to start a gradual increase for the remainder

of the season.

This is the time of year to fish the spring quill mayfly hatch. On overcast days it is excellent. The water temps have hit the mid to upper 40's and the fish are becoming more active. The bulk of the browns will still be found in the deeper, softer water and pools with some fish out on the gravel late in the hatch. #16-18 gray bodied, twin tailed patterns will suffice for this hatch that is coming off about 12:30-2:30 p.m. Otherwise nymphing with small olive rock worm and midge larva patterns #18-22 will get the job done in the wild trout section. Use 6x fluorocarbon for tippet. I have seen the start of some small dark caddis activity, but the fish are not responding to them yet.

The drift boat sections have been great. We have had so many big fish as of late (23 inches or better) that space will not allow us to mention all the great anglers who have bested these beauties. The numbers are good also, 15-40 fish caught and released every float. I am a big fish junkie; I firmly believe the big browns and bows on this river are for the most part predators. We pull streamers that imitate the small baitfish that inhabit the rivers

ecosystem. We use heavy sink tips and drag these imitations by the undercut banks and through the deep holes that are plentiful on the secluded sections of the Lower Owens River. Dan Manzer from Somis, Ca. and his companion Jim, "Don't want no little fish" Lawrence of Camarillo, Ca., both Sespe Fly Fishers booked a couple of days with us and Gary Gunsolly of Brock's Fly Fishing. Both accomplished anglers landed many browns and rainbows in 2 days of drifting. The largest being landed by Jim, his 25-inch bow slammed a sculpin pattern after a perfect presentation in one of the "black holes" known for kicking out bigfish. Dan on the next pool downstream outfoxed another big bow with some angling savvy I have not witnessed in along time. He did his Brad Pitt, "River Runs Through It" imitation without getting wet. The fish hit hard and took off downstream faster than I could give chase. She got around the bend of the river and Dan had no angle to keep the 70 feet of line from becoming entangled on the shore line, so he hops up on the casting deck (I saw visions of my insurance agent frowning and shaking his fist at me) and gets the added elevation needed to turn the fish and clear the line. We all laughed so hard after the fish was released our ribs hurt! You got game Dan! Nice going guys.

Check out the pictures of these fish and others on our website at <http://sierradrifters.com> Click on fish report please.

Pleasant Valley Reservoir: Good. Not much of a change since last report. The fish are still concentrated at the dam end and fly fishers in a float tube best access it. The water is warming up and with the sun higher for a prolonged period this is the time to tube P.V. Recent plants of Alpers trophy trout here will give you the opportunity to nail a fat one. Streamers in olive, brown and black with some crystal flash incorporated into the pattern



Interested in Fishing in the UK?

My name is Laurence Holden, and I am a lapsed member of FFF (I was among the original group with Bill Beech and Rick Claridad who started the Atlanta FFF). I am organizing a fly fishing trip to the Yorkshire Dales (United Kingdom) June 21-24 and would like to offer info on this to your members.

The rivers of the Yorkshire Dales are my home waters, and these offer superb sport for stream bred brown trout and grayling in historic stretches owned and managed by private angling clubs for almost 200 years. We will make our home base in the ancient village of Burnsall and each day we will explore stretches among a 1/2 dozen rivers. I will teach participants the special techniques to fish these waters, casting, presentation, entomology, fly selection, and strategy. These are wise trout that readily rise to a well presented dry fly in June. This is an historically rich area of the UK, with a wealth of tourist activities available, lots of things for non fishing spouses to do. Tuition for 4 full days of fly fishing is \$600, and limited to 6 anglers. For information contact me, Laurence Holden at laurenceholden@alltel.net

SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS FLIES OF THE MONTH

32 issues of "Fly of the Month" in a spiral bound booklet. This booklet is available to club members for \$10.00 per copy.

Contact Tom Smith or Larry Sorenson at the monthly meeting to order your copy.

Fly Tiers Wanted!

November's meeting will be the Fly Tier's round table. If you enjoy fly tying and have a special fly you want to share with the Club, please let me know if you would like to participate. You do not need to be an expert. We want participants of all skill levels. We also want a variety of types of flies; trout, bass, saltwater, dries (except the Elk Hare Caddis), wets, nymphs, midges and worms.

If you don't tie flies, plan on attending to see how it is done and maybe catch the bug!

Sierra Report

continued from page 6

will work well when trolling with a full, or heavy sinking tip line. I suggest 4x

fluorocarbon for tippet. The river inlet into the reservoir will still kick out some fish and the mayflies are coming off here as well.

The Gorge: Good

The fish are reacting to the increase in water temp and the prolonged periods of sunshine. Most of the ice and snow has melted in this area eliminating at least some of the hurdles one must jump to angle here. I would use an Adams pattern #14-16 here, with a caddis larva as a dropper. The flows in the mid to lower sections are about 60 cfs. Wading upstream is difficult at this flow. Felt soled wading boots with studs will help immensely. Being as big as Shaquille O'Neal will also get you more access. Hope your catch rate is better than his free throw average however.

East Walker River Cleanup Update:

About 2/3's of the oil has been removed according to the authorities. There are 20 workers daily weather permitting, mopping up. It is still a mess but I think it will be ok for the upcoming season. If the water users can hold off increasing flows until the bulk of this spill is cleaned up we can all look forward to another great season on this blue ribbon tail water.

Best fishes to all, be the fly...

Tom Loe

Sierra Drifters Guide Service
760-935-4250

If you wish to opt out of the merchant mailing list...

Please remove my name from the SDFF Merchant Mailing List:

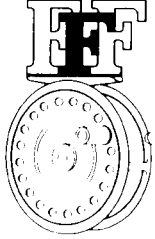
Name _____

Address _____

Return form to desk at monthly meeting or mail to:

Helen Grundler





From the FFF Clubwire News

Submitted by Rob Brown, director and the chair
of the Steelhead Committee of the BCFFF

PLAYING WITH YOUR FOOD

I grow tired of those who point a finger at anglers who release their catch, as I do, and accuse us of fish molestation. The phrase “playing with your food” wasn’t clever the first time it was uttered. But it has acquired a particularly unintelligent and irritating ring now that it has become a pet phrase used by buffalo hunters from rod and gun clubs, belligerent natives with huge chips on their shoulders, and the oh-so-sensitive among us who seek thrills on clear cut ski slopes, or on golf courses that lie where wetlands once lay, or on wild lands turned to tennis courts.

To the people who think every fishing outing must have killing as its end point, I say grow up. Killing fish is what kids do. And, they do it well. Kids want to catch a lot of fish and they want to catch big fish. Left to their own devices they turn into ruthless predators. Forty years ago my ten-year-old buddies and I stumbled across a creek. Before long we spotted signs of fish. We unwound the braided green line from the hand-sized, rectangular wooden frames we’d bought at the five-and-dime. We threaded worms on the snelled hooks that hung below the pinch-on sinkers and a small float that completed the outfit. That done, we pitched our baits to the head of the pool lying at our feet. Time and time again our floats bobbed through the pool unmolested.

The frustration didn’t last long. We dammed both ends of the pool with

boulders then used our bait cans to scoop out enough water to strand the terrified fish. We pounced on our quarry and flipped them up and over the bank. For all we knew -and we knew very little about our surroundings then-these were only trout in the stream. We took them all. It was an act of innocence and ignorance, one that wouldn’t have happened if an adult had been there to define the limits for us and explain the reason for them. We found those limits years later, at great cost to trout and every other species of fish and shellfish that had the misfortune of becoming our targets.

Now with so much undermined habitat and so many exhausted fish stocks, it’s essential we teach children that the continuance of this bloodsport called angling may well hinge upon it becoming almost bloodless. “Why such a reluctance in a professed fisherman to kill fish,” wrote Roderick Haig-Brown, reflecting on this habit in himself, “The main reason, I suppose, is that I don’t enjoy killing anything, so I cannot see that doing so adds to the sport of going fishing.”

Exactly. Everything leading up to the kill is captivating, exhilarating, instructive, and profoundly spiritual. When it comes to the killing, well, it’s not pleasant, and the older one gets, the harder it becomes.

As for those who worry that hooking a fish

hurts it, and would, for that reason, get rid of angling altogether, I say consider your own participation in the grand scheme of things and reflect on the ways of the natural world. Inflicting pain makes a lot of people squeamish, but if you stop and drop all those anthropomorphic notions of cruelty and appreciate the ruthless environs in which fish exist, things come into focus. At one moment a smolt, responding to some inscrutable call, moves downstream to the sea, then-snap- it is gone, a meal for a bull trout. In one instant, a salmon sits, quivering in a shallow riffle a moment later the fish feels sharp pain as talons stab into its sides and it is hoisted aloft; a short time later it’s torn apart by an osprey. In the natural context pricking the lip of fish, bringing it to hand in a few minutes, then twisting the hook to free it, is a very mild stylized form of predation.

For us angling goes back thousands of years. It is an important part of our culture, a link between our predatory past, the natural world and us. If it turns out we are no longer able to kill fish without putting their population at risk, we will still need to fish for them and let them go to maintain that cultural imperative. Angling is vital to millions of us. It is ritualized predation we call sport.

If you think about it you will realize that this kind sport is too benign to offend any gods. 🎣



FFF Life Membership Has Its Benefits

Sign up for a life membership and receive a premium SAGE SP 5 weight 9 foot 2 piece rod; a lifetime commemorative Ross Gunnison 2 Platinum reel; Scientific Anglers Mastery GPX line AND a life membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers. This is a value of \$1,310 offered at the great price of \$725. The cost for a Couple Life Membership to participate in this deal is \$1,150 and includes two rods, two reels, two lines and of course the membership. Only 100 packages are available on a first-come first-served basis as determined by the postmark on the envelope. For an application or information please contact FFF National Office P.O. Box 1595 Bozeman, MT 59771-1595 (406) 585-7592 or www.fedflyfishers.org. 🦅

Thoughts On Altering Fly Rod Blanks

Every fly rod has its own natural vibration rate, and a rod's "weight" is related to its vibration rate. The faster the vibration rate the stiffer (faster) the rod and the heavier a line it can cast, or the further it can throw a line and the easier it will load on short casts. A rod will have a constant vibration rate regardless of the arc of vibration (how deeply the rod is bent). The vibration rate of a rod is a constant and it can easily be determined.

The natural vibration rate of a rod (the first harmonic) occurs when the rod is vibrating without a node. If you shake a rod faster than its natural vibration rate you will find a node—a still spot—occurring about 1/3 the way down from the tip. If you "muscle" a fly rod beyond its natural vibration rate with the application of sudden force during the casting stroke, shock waves will occur in the line as a result of the abnormal rhythm and your cast will suffer.

If you take a fly rod and hold the grip firmly on a table with the front of the grip near the edge of the table and with the guides up or down—in line with the spine of the rod blank—and press down on the overhanging rod and then release the pressure, you can observe, and even time, the vibration rate (the effective length of a fly rod begins at the front of the grip irrespective of the length of the grip or the length of any fighting butt). Then place a book near the edge of the table and hold the bare blank ahead of the grip firmly on the book, a couple of feet up from the grip, and repeat the vibration test. The further up the rod you make the test the faster the rod will vibrate.

I experimented by building a fly rod from a 9 foot, 7 weight, first or second generation graphite fly rod blank with 5" cut off the butt, which significantly increased the natural vibration rate of the blank. The shortened rod made longer, easier casts using a WF9F than it did using a WF7F line for which it was originally designed. I could feel the rod work during the cast. At no time did I feel that the rod was overloaded—and we are talking about casts of 80 to 90 feet. The entire outfit was lighter and handier and felt crisper when casting on the grass. When I first tried fishing with it, it fell short of my expectations because I was unintentionally trying to force (muscle) the rod. Casting errors seem to be magnified by the faster vibration rate.

I found that long, slow, smooth casting strokes—paying attention to technique and timing and trying to eliminate slack and shock waves during the casts—achieved the best results. Forcing the rod with quick power snaps resulted in noticeably poorer casts—a lesson less obvious with a slower factory fly rod. Like a drawn bow, the only thing a fly rod can do is straighten. How fast you draw a bow or bend a fly rod is not important. How deep you bend the bow or fly rod is what counts. Besides, you can accelerate a rod faster with relaxed muscles than you can by trying to force the rod. Good casting strokes start slowly and accelerate

smoothly to a sudden stop. And, the longer the casting stroke the less effort is required to make long, smooth casts.

All this does not imply that we can throw away the butt and cast heavier lines over longer distances with just the tip section of a fly rod, or drastically shorten the butt section, because shortening the butt will not only reduce line speed because of the shorter lever, but will reduce the lifting power of the rod and its ability to fight really heavy fish. Everything is a compromise. You can always fight a heavy fish like you would with a lighter rod. Besides, I always seem to do more casting than fighting fish. This is all pretty heavy stuff, but it keeps my mind active and me off the streets. 🦅

(by Don Coleman of Florida's Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club for the FFF ClubWire) Email NewsWire)

Blown-Up Waders Save Man In Sea Ordeal

A Wales fisherman survived 19 hours in the sea by using his waders as a floatation device. According to the UK News Electronic Telegraph, the fisherman inflated his green waders using a survival technique taught by the Royal Life Saving Society. The method entails making an improvised float by blowing air into the waders and then sealing them, normally by pulling the belt-high drawstring. The swimmer then keeps his head above water by putting it through the crotch of the waders.

While the survival technique using waders is a commonly taught strategy, some experts described it as a gamble. According to an Orvis Fly Fishing Company spokesperson: "If your waders fill with air you float, and if they fill with water you sink. Waders cannot be relied upon to keep you afloat and a far safer option is to buy a suspension device to wear around your neck which inflates to keep you afloat." 🦅



A SAFE, PAINLESS WAY TO GET THE HOOK OUT: EASY AS 1-2-3

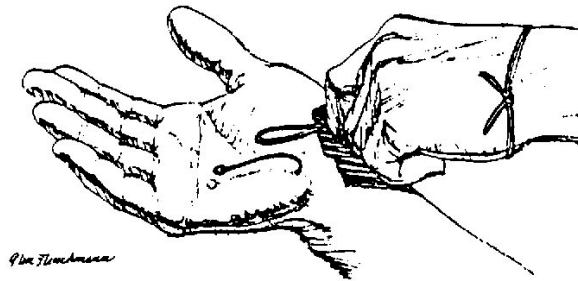
It can happen in countless ways—a fishhook suddenly buried past the barb somewhere in your anatomy. Removal can be a painful, even hazardous, procedure, especially when someone tries to cut the hook out. Here is a method most anyone can follow, and the only tool you need is your fishing line.

- 1.** First, remove the hook from the lure unless the lure is a single-hook fly or spoon. Next, you must have line strong enough to approximate 30-pound test and about 20 inches long. This removal technique can be used with one strand of 30-pound test line, two strands of 15, or three strands of 10.
- 2.** Tie a knot in the loose ends of the line, forming about a ten-inch loop. Place the loop around the back of your hand and bring it out between your thumb and forefinger, as shown. Place the loop over the eye of the hook and center it in the middle of the hook's bend.
- 3.** Apply pressure down and back on the eye of the hook, and simultaneously give a sharp jerk on the line. The hook will neatly pop out of the same hole it entered, causing no additional pain and leaving a minimal wound to heal.

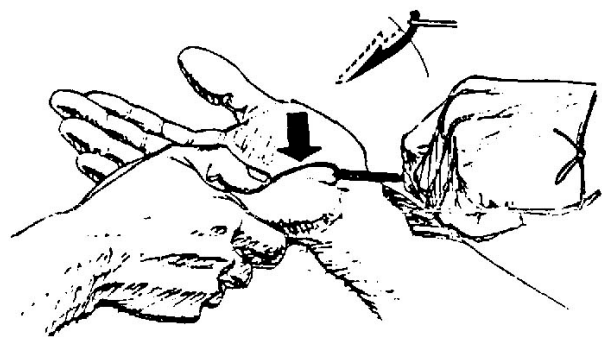
Cleanse the wound with soap or antiseptic, and apply an adhesive bandage. I prefer a dab of antibiotic like Bacitracin because it prohibits the invasion of germs and virtually eliminates pain.

Two cautions to remember: One, be certain to immobilize the finger or hand from which a hook is going to be removed. And two, if the hook has entered in the area of an eye, take no chances—get the victim to a doctor, fast.

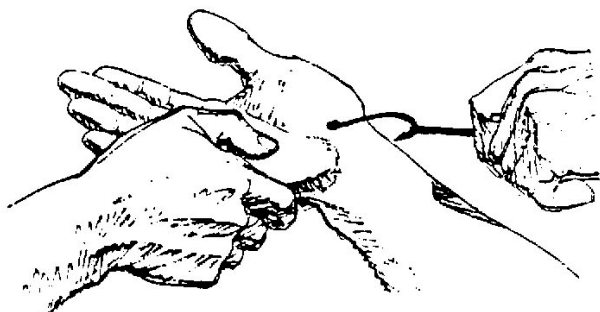
From the Redding Fly Shop



- 1.** Tie ends of line together forming a ten-inch loop. Line should approximate 30-pound test. Place loop around back of hand and bring out between thumb and forefinger.



- 2.** Place loop over eye of hook and center in middle of hook's bend. Immobilize hand and apply pressure down and back while simultaneously giving a sharp jerk.



- 3.** Hook will neatly pop out of the same hole it entered. Apply antiseptic.





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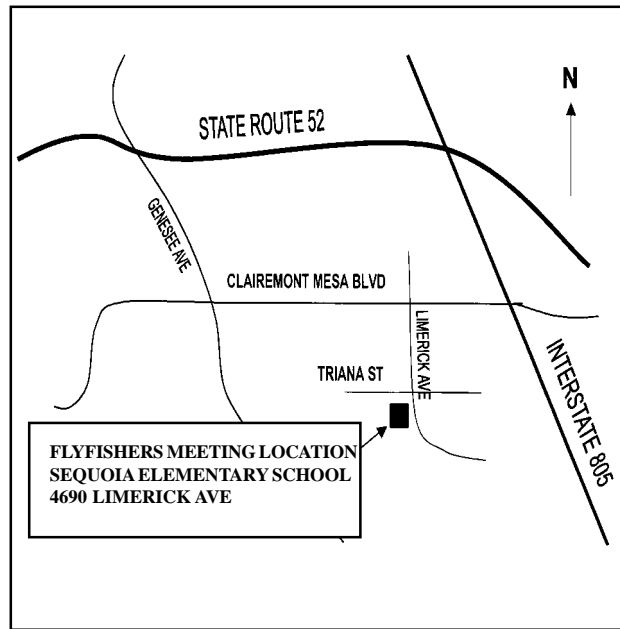
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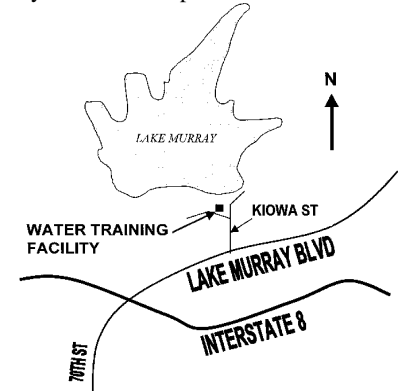
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