

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

DECEMBER 2007

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 12, No. 12

December Meeting

Fisheries Biologist with Inyo National Forest to Speak

Lisa Sims Senior Fisheries Biologist with Inyo National Forest will speak at the San Diego Fly Fishers December meeting about the role the Forest Service has in maintaining fish habitats and the current status of many of our favorite Eastern Sierra fishing venues. Lisa works out of the Forest Service Headquarters in Bishop.



MEETING NOTICE

Monday, December 3, 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)

Clyde Weston

and Richard DeBusk

Thank You, Mona Morebello



Tom with a nice kawai.

Hi. I just got back from a 10-day visit to Australia. I was there for my eldest daughter's wedding but in reality, I was there to fly fish! Well, the wedding obviously took precedence but all I could think about was wetting a line. I know, I know....my priorities are all messed up!

I had earlier been in contact with the club secretary of the Central Coast Fly Rodders, which is in Gosford and that in turn is about 60-odd miles north of Sydney. As some of you may know, I have had successful fly fishing visits to Tasmania and Idaho via fly fishing club contacts and this trip proved no exception.

My contact, Chris Bannerman is a self-employed geologist/map-maker and he regularly fishes the salt near his home. For those of you not familiar with Sydney and its environs, there are basically three major bay systems that are within/near the city confines. Botany Bay, to the south, is where the international airport is and into which the first convict fleet sailed in 1788. They didn't like what they saw and so they went north to Port Jackson; nowadays known as Sydney Harbour. North of that is Pittwater, which is fed via the Hawkesbury river system and it was out of that system that Chris

DownUnder Visit

by Tom Lucas

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Happy Holiday Season!

I am getting excited about our December Meeting. I have been a volunteer worker in the Golden Trout Wilderness for the past several years and have come to know our guest speaker Lisa Sims. Lisa is the Senior Fisheries Biologist with Inyo National Forest. She works out of the Forest Headquarters in Bishop. She will be talking to us about the role the Forest Service has in maintaining fish habitats and the current status of many of our favorite Eastern Sierra fishing venues.

Lisa is very knowledgeable and dedicated. I am sure you will find her presentation interesting and timely.



GARY STRAWN

I want to thank **Art Reifman, Jon Hee, Lucky Ketchum** and other members of your Board of Directors for all of the effort they have put in to create a survey about our members interest. You may see it via email or you can pick up hard copies at the next few meetings. Please take the time to fill it out.

We are trying to make our Club programs, projects and policies responsive to your interests.

Remember this date: Monday, January

7, 2008. Our annual Stroud Banquet will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 PM at the Admiral Baker Clubhouse. I hope you all can join us. Tickets (\$25.00 per person) will be on sale at the December meeting. Spouses and guests are welcome!

In the mean time, Steve Piper talked to the City Parks Dept and learned that they expect the first truck load of those big Rainbow Trout from Nebraska to arrive at Miramar Lake as early as November 20. Although the lake concessions won't open until Dec 1, it is open to float tubers and private watercraft. Hopefully we can get enough Sdff's out there to make it look like a bowl of Cheerios again this year.

Keep smilin' and go fishin'!
Gary



San Diego Fly Fishers Annual "STROUD" Banquet Monday January 7th 2008 6:30 to 9:00 PM Admiral Baker Clubhouse U.S. Navy Recreation Center

**Come celebrate another successful year for the
San Diego Fly Fishers.**

**The price is only \$25 per person for a great buffet.
Spouses and guests are welcome!**



Down Under Visit

continued from page 1



Tom fighting a kawai.

and I fished the first day.

Aussies refer to their small skiffs as “tinnies” and Chris had a 14.5ft. Quintrex (probably similar to our Lund boats) outfitted with an outboard, trolling motor and all the necessary electronics. I traveled to Gosford via inter-city electric train and we met at 0730. In short order we were at the boat ramp and underway. Chris explained that we had a longish run out to open ocean via Pittwater’s sentinel, Lion Island. We ran over some fabulous shallow water, which at low tide (which it was not) is a great stalking area for flathead; a species that has the coloration of a halibut and looks something like a ling cod and which is fabulous table fare. The water over this stretch of sandy bottom was the most incredible tropical green and the ocean beyond that was a deep blue. When I was a kid, fishing in and around Sydney was pretty dismal due to polluted run-off. However, like most other places, the city fathers have cleaned up their act and it’s now possible to fish for yellowtail kingfish

(= our yellowtail) in Sydney harbour and inside Pittwater as well.

We didn’t even get out to the open ocean before we were into several large schools of baitfish being ravaged by Australian kawai, otherwise known as Australian salmon. Why they have this name is beyond me as they are neither Australian nor salmon. They look very

much part of the kingfish family though and fight just like our yellowtail...i.e. down and dirty. Chris hooked up immediately and as the accompanying photos show, a 5lb. fish can and does put a nice bend in a 12 wt. rod. I had a full-sink line on and after I changed over to a floater, I too was hooked up almost immediately. However, I had a mackerel on! A few casts later and it was “bend-o” for me. We caught and released a few ‘salmon’ each before several other boats motored over and the bait balls sounded, along with their predators. We then motored a little north to try several “bombies” or underwater mounts with no success, so we turned south and entered Pittwater again. The only notable thing there, apart from the yachts and palatial homes was a bush fire that almost took out a few multi-million dollar homes on the waterfront. It was the first day of the fire season and

there were three separate fires burning around Sydney.....not a good omen for the coming fire season. Incidentally, Sydney is currently under level-4 water restrictions due to a prolonged drought but oddly, the Sydney Hilton hotel showers are unrestricted. Go figure!

Day one petered out with no more fish but I sure got some sun. It was unseasonably warm and the temperature was 35 degrees Centigrade....something like the high 80’s. Day #2 saw Chris bring a tackle shop owner (how’s that for a FRIEND?!) by the name of Bob Williams. Bob is a crusty guy of about 60 and I do believe we swapped Aussie insults with equal abandon! Bob came with us because his new bay boat wasn’t fully outfitted yet....what a bummer! We chose to



Brush fire near Pittwater shore. San Diego is not the only place with fire problems.

fish day #2 from Sydney’s middle harbour and then into the main harbour itself. Things started off with the boys being late due to traffic delays and that set the tone for the day. It was still

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Down Under Visit

continued from page 3

warm but the wind started to blow really hard....something approaching 30 knots and the most exciting thing on the harbour was watching some sailing yachts really get going and a few sailing skiffs overturn. Also, I spied a capuccino and ice cream boat at our



Capuccino and ice cream boat.

Taransky, who is probably the only full-time professional bamboo rod maker in Australia. We had a nice talk; I didn't buy another rod and he allowed me to cast a few prototype rods. I can recommend him as an exceptional rod maker and a very easy-going character. His wife, Mary, does wonderful house renovation work.....seriously!!



Chris and Bob at launch ramp.



put in...a suitable testament to "available money". We fished quite a few spots, including the famous "wedding cake" navigation lights in the harbour and in/around the Spit Bridge with zero results. I again got plenty of sun but had lathered up with sun screen beforehand and thus didn't get too burned. Chris accepted an NTi rod as a 'thank you' and we hope to fish again when I'm next "downunder".

The postscript to all this is that my daughter, Laura was married at a winery (terrific wedding by the way) about 200 kms outside Sydney and they had at least THREE stocked ponds on the property. Needless to say, Tom didn't have a fly rod with him. Oh well..... I also managed to visit Nick



Chris 'bend-o" with 12 wt.



What Fly Should I Use?

Taken from the McKenzie Fly Fishers newsletter

What fly should I use? Under standing the resting-feeding cycle of fish can help make the first choice the right one instead of a blind guess. A fly fisherman can set up a rough timetable of the daily cycle on most streams. The main feeding period occurs during the most pleasant period of the day for the particular season, midday or early afternoon for spring or late autumn, and dawn or dusk for midsummer. Not surprisingly, this corresponds to the best water temperature and the frequency of hatches on most streams.

Minor feeding periods occur before or after the major feeding time, and an angler should put roughly a two hour resting phase on either side of the main meal period to find the minor periods. Trout don't consciously set this rhythm; the feelings of hunger and station simply adapt to the cycle of food availability.

Stoney chose the Elk Hair Caddis, the Adams, and the Royal Trude as his three "must" flies. He picked these for our western trout streams so that he would have a downwing (to imitate stoneflies as well as caddisflies), an upwing (to imitate mayflies), and a



general attractor (for bouncing riffles).

The first thing a fly fisherman has to do when

he gets to the river is stop and watch the water. Before he chooses a fly, whether he does it empirically, generally, or scientifically, he has to find out where he is at the moment in the daily feeding cycle. He can do that if he studies the water for rises on the surface and flashing fish below the surface. Either seeing something or seeing nothing will tell him about the mood of the trout.

What fly do I use when a trout is inactive and not accepting natural food items?

A dry fly probably will not move the fish. A streamer might provoke a strike, or a perfectly drifted nymph might tempt him to open his mouth.

What fly do I use when a trout is not actively feeding but receptive to food?

Trout are seldom so gluttoned that they won't show interest in any food. The exception usually is after long, heavy feeding on a superb hatch. If they're only mildly receptive, a fly that imitates a prime chunk of food will appeal to voraciousness. If they're almost ready to start feeding, a fly that inspires playfulness or curiosity will draw more

strikes.

What fly do I use when a trout is actually feeding?

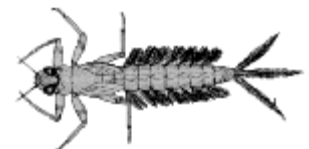
Match the predominant food item, even if the drift is a smorgasbord of different insects and the fish are taking everything.

What fly do I use when I can't decide which fly to use?

Sometimes the quickest way to solve a problem is with more than one possible answer. The easiest way is to fish two dry flies-or a dry fly and a nymph-is to tie an extra length of monofilament right to the eye of the first fly. This is not only quick, with no changes in the original leader, but the two patterns seldom tangle (Stoney showed me this dropper method - when a pod of trout couldn't make up their mind whether they wanted an Elk Hair Caddis or a Midge Pupa, and Stoney's solution was to show them both with this "New Zealand tie").

Four Basic Categories of a Dry

Dry flies have four basic categories, a low and high profile imitation and a low and high profile attractor. The high profile imitation (such as the Gray Fox Variant), the low profile Imitation (such as the Elk Hair Caddis), the high profile Attractor (such as the Bivisible), and the low profile attractor (such as the House and Lot). The key to finding the dry fly answer is not to change just flies, but to change categories.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Sailor Ant

Hook:	TMC 101, dry fly straight eye, or TMC 100 size 16, 14, 12
Thread:	Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
Abdomen:	Rainy's Hi-Vis ant body
Legs/Hackle:	Black rooster hackle
Wing:	NA



Large Carpenter Ant



This is a very simple, yet effective dry fly for the Green River. We usually fished it 18 inches behind a larger hopper or cicada pattern. This is a fly anyone can tie and can be used as a little popper for bluegill.

Select round foam tubing for the size of hook to be used. The foam cylinders come in several sizes and colors. Black, tan and brown are useful colors. The white foam cap makes it a Hi Vis - "Sailor."

De-barb and mount the hook in the vise. Attach the thread with a jam knot behind the eye and wrap a tight thread base to the bend. Place the foam body parallel and on top of the hook. The rear body section should be longer than the head. A distinct waist is important in an ant pattern. Make two or three soft pinch wraps at the bend of the hook and pull straight down or straight up to keep the body on top of the hook. Compress the

foam slightly with your fingers as you wrap the thread forward forming the waist. Lift the front section of foam and make a small thread dam to help lock the body and keep it from turning on the hook. A half hitch is a good idea, before wrapping the thread back to the middle.

Select a black rooster saddle hackle, sized for the hook. The length of the hackle barbs should be 1.25 to 1.5 hook gaps. The number of wraps of hackle can be varied on this pattern. The ones we bought had only 3 or 4 wraps of hackle. Attach the hackle by the quill and make three or four wraps in the middle of the waist. Tie off and trim the excess hackle. Wrap the thread forward to the hook eye, form a small head and whip finish. Remember that thread is weight and always keep thread wraps to a minimum on dry flies. Apply a little head cement to the head and thread body.

--Lucky Ketcham



To: SDFF
From: North Pole
Re: Santa's List

Congratulations SDFF...we are happy to report that none of your members will receive a "lump of coal" this year thanks to the 30 members who recently signed-up as 2008 Meeting Hosts!

A schedule and details will arrive in the January, 2008 Finny Facts.

Ho-Ho-Ho...



Mona Morebello (chief elf)

Oz Osborn
Life Member SDFF

Donation of Fly Tying Materials

Dear Oz,

This letter is the formal thank you for your generous donation of fly tying materials, tools and fly boxes to the San Diego Fly Fishers, Fly Tying Congress. This note will also serve as documentation of a donation of approximately two thousand dollars, \$2,000, worth of materials and tools to our non-profit organization.

Thank you for thinking of our group and the needs of future fly tiers joining the SDFF. The large supply of hooks, hackle and dubbings will be used in our outreach programs to the Boy Scouts and hopefully to the injured military veterans program that Lee McElravy is trying to set up.

Thank you for all your support at the Lake Murray Casting Classes and all your past support of the club.

Sincerely Yours,

Horace "Lucky" Ketcham
SDFF Membership/Fly Tying Coordinator





Application for Membership – Revised for 2008 LK

Welcome to the San Diego Fly Fishers. We are famous for our free Sunday morning fly casting lessons at Lake Murray, La Mesa. Our monthly educational meetings, raffles, combined with a monthly news letter, organized trips, fly tying and rod building classes will improve your skills and knowledge of fly fishing. We also support many nature conservation projects and youth fishing programs.

Single Memberships are \$35.00 and Family Memberships are \$45. Make checks payable to SDFF.

All members are encouraged to become involved in the operation of your club. There is a full range of opportunities that will match your talent, time and expertise. On the application form below, please indicate the activities you desire to participate in. Family memberships – please try to include the names, ages, e-mail addresses and interests of our youth and young adult members.

See you at our monthly meeting. I'll be at the membership table.

Sincerely yours,

Lucky Ketcham, Membership Chairperson,

Cut Here

San Diego Fly Fishers 2008 Membership Application Form ____ New Member or ____ Renewal

New Members, please sign a standard liability release form

Please **print** your **name**: _____ Age _____

(Use the reverse side for family membership names and interests)

Address: _____

Telephone number: Home _____ Work _____, Cell _____

E-mail _____

I would like to participate in:

Membership ____ Mailings ____ Publications ____ Refreshments ____ Raffles ____ Programs ____

Conservation ____ Public Relations ____ advertising ____ Video Library ____ Travel ____,

Chollas Lake Youth Fishing ____, Sunday Fly casting clinic ____, Teach Fly Tying ____.

Interest Groups:

Fly tying – beginning ____, intermediate ____, advanced ____;

Local outings ____, Trips ____, Rod Building ____, Conservation ____, Trout ____, Bass ____,

Salt water fishing ____, Surf ____, other _____

Would you like to be included on Kim Jones' e-mail SDFF bulletin board for fishing reports? Yes ____, No ____.

See - Kim Jones Ladyfish

Please check this box if you do not want your address information shared with vendors ____.

(We do not normally share this list with any vendors – Lucky)

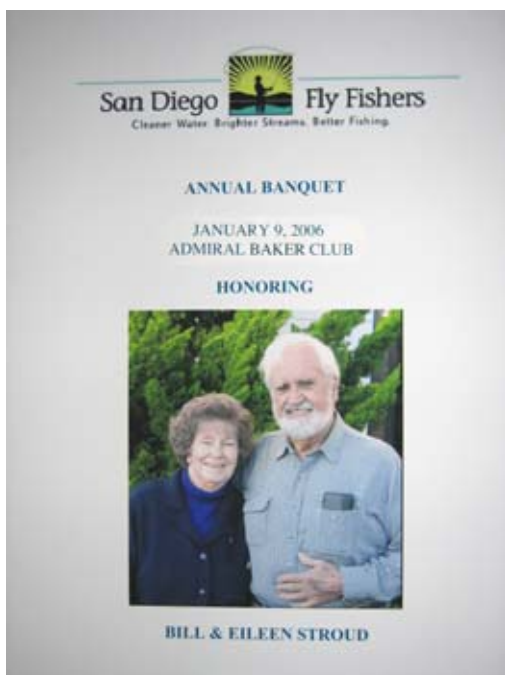
Please indicate: **Single \$35.00** ____ or **Family \$45.00** ____

Enclose Check or Money Order payable to: **San Diego Fly Fishers**



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Stroud Award

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



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HONORARY MEMBERS

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

Recipients of the:

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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 **January FINNY FACTS**
articles---Friday December 14th.

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 Thanks!!

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

Lucky Ketcham
3510 Gayle Street
San Diego, CA 92115
membership@sandiegoflyfishers.com



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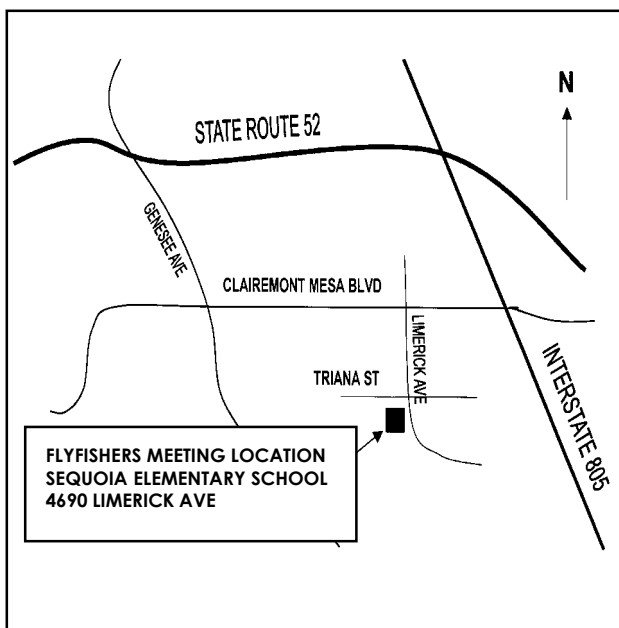
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Raffles- Jim Tenuto Kim Jones,
Refreshments- Maria Goldman

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.



San Diego Flyfishers Headquarters
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 San Diego, CA 92110
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