Fly Fishers San Diego

Volume 12, No. 3

March Meeting

Fly Fishing Telluride Colorado



lease join us on March 5th when our Speaker will be **John Duncan**, a partner in Telluride Outside Guide Service and Telluride Angler Fly Shop. John has been fishing the rivers of Southwestern Colorado for 19 years and will present a program entitled, "Fly Fish Telluride, Same State, Different World."

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, March 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)

> **Paul Woolery** and Wayne Allen

Thank You, Mona Morebello

Female Gets an Attitude -She's Gravid

The call went out on Saturday from the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC) to Allen Greenwood of San Diego Trout -"The Sweetwater female is swollen and trying to build a redd. The [Sweetwater] male is in full color and chasing the smaller males away from the female." With that information, Allen notified his group of volunteers that the surviving Sweetwater trout were ready to spawn, and to meet at the CVNC on Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m.

I arrived a little early, since my trip from Santee to Chula Vista only took 18 minutes (its surprising how little traffic there is on SR 125 southbound at 5:50 a.m.). Before long, I was joined by Allen and a bevy of friends of our coldwater fisheries:

- Dan Beintema, CVNC Director
- Joyce Kemp, CVNC Veterinary Technician
- Paul Curtis, fisheries biologist from AquaSolvers, Inc.
- Ben Cutshall, Channel 8 News videographer
- Linda Pardy, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board



by Bruce Campbell

- Todd Cecil, DVM (fish have vets – who knew?)
- Emily Moeller, an associate of Dr. Neal's

After a half an hour or so of staging egg incubation trays and various bowls, buckets, and drugs around the CVNC aquatics lab, we went over to the Southern Steelhead exhibit. As Allen had warned us, we found the hugely egg-swollen female swimming head down in the back of the tank, though in no apparent distress. Paul Curtis informed us that "it's not unusual for female trout to take an attitude when gravid..." Hey, Paul! It's not unusual for any female to get an attitude when 9 months gravid!

A team of three netters and three spotters quickly captured the female, documented by 3 photographers. The female was transferred to a large bucket of water containing a suspension of FINQUEL, an aquatic anesthetic. I'm told FINQUEL is a cocaine derivative – draw your own conclusions. She began popping a few eggs while being transferred by net from

continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MARCH 2007

am learning that this can be a pretty cool job. On Friday, Febru ary 9, while I was goofing off at

the Winternational
Drag Races in
Pomona, Paul
Woolery led a group
of SDFF volunteers
in rigging up 500 rods
and reels for the
annual Star/Pal
(Police Athletic
League) Kids Fishing
Derby at Chollas
Lake. I did make it
to Chollas Saturday,
for all the fun teach-



GARY STRAWN

ing 427+ eager kids to fish. Then, I got credit for it all in the Sunday Union Tribune. Of course, the real credit goes to **Paul Woolery**, **Joe Bain** and the following SDFF volunteers, who all worked so hard to make the Chollas Fishing Derby a success:

Wayne Allen, Ken Armor,
Lee Anderson, John Beckstrand,
Paul Britting, David Collins,
Marvin Darling, Don Davis, Jim &
Donna Gottfried, Peter Hofman,
Lucky Ketcham, Howard Knop,
Bob May, Lee McElravy, Dan
McKirnan, Bob McKay, Sam
Morebello, Dick Mount, Jim
Murphy, Barry Pechersky, Bob
Pharoah, Bob Stafford, Al Venton
and Louie & Gordie Zimm.

Robert Erb was unable to attend but assisted by pre-tying leaders. Ed Gausdal also assisted and furnished the tools to make the Power Bait pellets. I hope I didn't miss anyone! If I did, I apologize!

I also want to thank Ed Zieralski, the outdoor writer at the U.T. His weekly

fishing column always gives credit to the SDFF volunteers that keep the Chollas "Lend a Rod Program" going.

Ed's particularly insightful article on February 9, describes the long battle Joe Bain has fought with the San Diego City bureaucracy to keep Chollas Lake a viable children's fishing venue. Joe has arranged for Mike Rivkin (Rivkin Family Foundation) and others to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix Chollas Lake but the

political machinations and budget battles between the City Water and Parks Departments has made that a long difficult process. With the help of people like Ed and City Councilman Tony Young that process finally seems to be moving forward. In addition to covering the Club's efforts at Chollas, Ed's publicity of Tom Loe's visit to our February meeting, added to its great success. We had a super turn out for a great presentation

At the time I am writing this, there is still room to join your fellow club members on the big annual Green River Trip, May 7. Contact David Collins. Also, Dick Mount has organized a group outing to Bishop on March 2-4. This will be an informal trip. Some club members will fish the Lower Owens with Tom Loe. Others will join together and fish the Lower Owens, Pleasant Valley Reservoir, the gorge, or even the Upper Owens, weather permitting. Dick has arranged hotel rooms but you can also make your own way, and join us there. I'll be taking my wife and motor home and spending a few extra days.

One last item: The Annual Raffle is coming up fast (June 4). Jim Tenuto, Maria Goldman and Don Davis are organizing it this year and are already stocking up some great items. If you have something you would like to donate, bring it to a meeting and get it to Maria. Also, if you have a personal contact with a fishing lodge, guide service or equipment manufacture and you would be willing to help solicit donations, contact Jim Tenuto.

"Keep smiling and go fishing!" Gary



Day on The Docks: Sunday April 22, 2007

The club will have a booth at the Day on The Docks, sponsored by the San Diego Sports Fishing Council. Club members will be giving fly tying demonstrations and promotiong San Diego Fly Fishers club activities and programs. This is a good opportunity to spend a day in the sun, meeting and greeting fellow anglers, and working on your salt water fly patterns with our resident experts.

For further details and volunteer opportunites contact Jim Castelluzzo at



Female Gets an Attitude continued from page 1

the tank to the bucket. The male proved considerably more challenging, since he was a lot faster on his fins, if you catch my drift, but after several minutes he slowed down and was placed in a second bucket containing FINQUEL to prevent stress.

Paul and Dr. Cecil evaluated the condition of the fish, and took weights and lengths. The female weighed 735 grams pre-spawn (1.62 pounds) and was 32.5 cm (13 inches) in length. The male weighed 325 gm (0.72 pounds) and was 27 cm (11 inches) long. Other than a fungal infection of the female's right eye, both fish were healthy. Because the male had been observed attempting to mate with the female, and concern that the trout's milt supply might have been depleted, Paul decided that he would fertilize the eggs directly, rather than capture it in a container first.

After a few minutes contact with the FINQUEL, the female appeared relaxed, and Paul quickly extruded the female's eggs into a stainless steel bowl by gently massaging her flanks. When blood appeared in the bowl, and some of the eggs were plainly nonviable, Paul indicated that reabsorption had already started, diminishing our chances for a successful spawn. Paul then expressed the male's milt directly onto the eggs and gently swirled the mixture of eggs and milt for a minute or so. Paul pronounced the male's milt supply ample to fertilize all of the 1000 plus eggs produced, if they were all viable. Paul then added a couple of liters of fresh water to the mix, causing the eggs to swell and harden, allowing him to decant the blood and floating (dead) eggs. Once fully hardened, Paul placed the remaining eggs (hopefully viable and fertilized) into one of the incubator trays. Following the spawn, Dr. Cecil took the opportunity to

administer antibiotics to help keep these rare and precious fish healthy. He also prescribed a sojourn in a saltwater tank for the female, to knock down the fungal infection.

Only time will tell if the spawn was successful. The appearance of eyes in a week to ten days will signal the presence of developing embryos. If not, we will hopefully have another chance next January, February or March. By then, we will have established a rescue hatchery where the environmental conditions can be controlled and the condition of the fish professionally monitored, making the onset of reproductive development more predictable. Even if we do not succeed with these two survivors, there is a chance that the recently discovered trout living in the Loveland Reservoir are progeny of the lost Sweetwater population. Stay tuned.





Egg-swollen female swimming head down in the back of the tank.





FLY OF THE MONTH

The Ray Charles

Hook: Tiemco 2457 scud size 14-18 (or straight shank TMC 100 or 101)

Thread: Red 8/0 Tail: None.

Rib: None or fine silver or gold wire.

Abdomen: Gray, olive, tan, pink or orange ostrich herl.

Back: Medium Pearl Mylar tinsel or 1 to 3 pearl Flashabou





his pattern imitates freshwater scud and sow bugs, often found in Western tailwater fisheries and spring creeks. Tied by Montana guide Bob Krumm, the name according to Bob, comes from the fact that even a blind person can catch a fish with this pattern. This pattern should be a winner on Hot Creek.

- 1. Wrap shank with thread.
- 2. Tie in Mylar tinsel below the bend.
- 3. Tie in 2 ostrich herls slightly ahead of tinsel and wrap forward, tie off at head and cut.
- 4. Pull Mylar over back and secure at head.
- 5. Whip finish.
- 6. Add two coats of head cement to thread head.

This is a classic "guide fly" - easy to tie and it catches lots of fish. Bob suggest using 2457 scud hooks rather than the thinner wire 2487 if you want to catch big fish.

Lucky notes: The Ray Charles in size 14 or 16 was a good pattern for Bob Pharoah on the Big Horn last summer. You can rib it or just keep it simple. Scuds are only curved when they are in your hand or dead. The pattern can be tied on a straight hook to represent a swimming scud, an isopod or fairy shrimp. When tied in white or light gray they are taken as Mysids in tail waters. Scuds make up a large part of a trout diet on weedy cold lakes like Heenan. If you run out of nice large ostrich herl try loop dubbing some of the fluff at the base of hen hackle or partridge.









Any Questions? Call David Collins at

Sign up NOW for the Green !!!

There's still time to sign up for our annual trip to the Flaming Gorge of the Green River. This is always a great trip!

Date: May 7 - May 11

2 travel days and 3 fishing days.

Floating Guides are approximately \$200/day, but there is easy access to 7 miles of river if you want to fish unguided.

Approximate cost of trip to float everyday is \$1,500. Estimate includes air fare, car rental, lodging, guides, meals and Utah fishing license.

Sign up deadline is March 18 ... but you must book your own airfaire ... and the sooner you book the preferred flight, the more likely it is you'll be able to get a seat.



The Italio River Alaska 24-29 September 2007

There are three openings for the silver salmon trip to The Italio River Alaska 24-29 September.

This trip was a recent FINNY FACTS lead article. This may be the last chance to visit an uncrowded wilderness area and just about guaranteed to bring back a box of salmon fillets.

This will be the third year at this venue. www.italio.com at a reasonable price. Contact Bob Miller



Andy Castiglione



The Fly Fishing Show March 3-4, 2007

Pasadena Center, Pasadena, CA **Show Hours:** Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4:30 **Admission:** Adult: \$14 for one day:

\$24 for two-day pass Children under 12: \$2

Danny Romero is scheduled to be one of the local tiers. Also Graham Owen will be demonstrating his realistic fly tying.

Over the past few years the show was in Ontario. This year it is at a new locaion in Pasadena. The show should be entertaining and educational. Look over the website for the list of speakers and fly tiers as well as the exact location in Pasadena.

Owens River Trip Set for March

The 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

ust a reminder that a new SDFF Fly Tying Congress J 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.

4th Annual Jr. Pheasant Hunt

When: Saturday March 17th Where: My Country Club

Time: 7:00 AM

Open to 12-17 year old first time hunters.

(Limit 50 shooters) Must have completed Hunter Education Course.

Event includes:

Trap range

.22 range

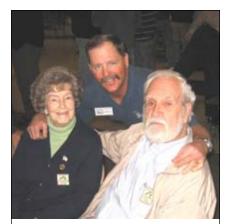
Archery

Demo by trappers

Door prizes and lunch after event.



Scenes from February's Meeting



Eileen and Bill Stroud with February's speaker Tom Loe of Sierra Drifters.



Lee McElravy with fly plate awardee Charlie Wright.



Lee McElravy with fly plate awardee C.T. Reinert.



Backcountry in Sabrina Basin July 2006.

BASIC ENTOMOL-OGY WORKSHOP

aggie 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







The town of Campbell River lies two hours north of the ferry terminal at Nanaimo on the east coast of Vancouver Island. In addition to its famous tyees (Chinook in excess of 30 pounds), nearby ocean waters annually host millions of salmon bound from Alaska to their spawning grounds. Locally, an angler also has access to the Campbell River and its tributary, the Quinsam. Not far to the north lie the Cluxuwe and Salmon Rivers, while the Oyster, Big Qualicum and Little Qualicum Rivers are within easy reach to the south. In addition, the Gold River is about an hour's drive to the west. Managed solely for wild steelhead, the Gold still supports a strong population of these fish. With all of these opportunities nearby, Campbell River may be an ideal retirement location. Where else can you hop on a bicycle for 10 minutes, fish for a couple of hours, break for a mocha, and return in time for the evening bite? Exercise, fishing and the amenities of a coffee bar all in one package; what more can I say?

While the local rivers and passing salmon get the most interest, the beaches in the area also provide opportunities for taking salmon from the shore with a fly rod. On one such trip, I spent the morning working my way south along the old Island Highway, stopping periodically to look for signs of fish. My search ended at the Oyster River, where I saw scattered pods of fresh coho moving upstream through the low clear flows, as well as small groups of fish surfacing off the beach.

This was clearly a situation that had possibilities, but there were some challenges that would have to be overcome before I was likely to hook anything. The main problem was a wicked wind blowing towards the shore from the southeast, driving an endless series of white caps onto the beach. This not only made casting difficult, but the waves pounding the shore stirred up the bottom, dirtying the water and suspending various bits of flotsam left by the previous tide. Given the conditions, it was not surprising that no one else was fishing.

It appeared that my best option would be to cast directly into the wind to minimize the risk of wrapping the line around me, or getting hooked by my own fly. In addition, it looked like a small section of shoreline along the north side of the river mouth was protected from the waves by an exposed sandbar located offshore. Since the waves were breaking on the bar, there was some sheltered water behind it where things didn't look quite so nasty. However, I knew the situation wouldn't last because the incoming tide would soon be washing over the bar and any protection would be lost.

I was rigged for coho along the West Vancouver shoreline, which probably wouldn't cut it under the conditions I was facing. To help turn the fly over against the stiff headwind, I cut the leader back to 2X and, sheltered behind some driftwood, pulled out my box of flies. I was looking for something with a bit of flash; in other words, an attractor pattern that would be readily distinguishable from the miscellaneous bits of woody and leafy debris suspended in the water column. After some deliberation, I selected a fly that combined bits of silver, white and chartreuse. It was a slim pattern tied on a relatively small hook, which helped cut through the wind.

Between the driving wind and the waves pounding the shore, it was tough fishing. Not only did the wind make it difficult to reach the channel, the fly and line were constantly picking up bits of kelp and other flotsam suspended in the rough water. To complicate matters, some distance in front of me was an old piling lined with barnacles that would easily shred my light leader, and there was also a partially submerged deadhead to worry about. Nevertheless, small pods of coho continued to move in and out, noses and tails poking through the surface. Occasionally a fish would jump, its splash barely discernible against the breaking whitecaps. The rough water had also brought in a small school of Chinook. It was unusual to

continued on next page



Beginner's Luck continued from previous page

see them this close to shore, but the off-colored water may have made them feel more secure in the shallows. Every so often, I would catch sight of these much larger fish as they porpoised in the waves, moving along the shore, and tasting the fresh water.

When it came, the grab wasn't sensational, just a solid stop. But the strong headshakes that followed the hookset were my first indication that I might be in for a surprise. The subsequent rapid and sustained loss of line from my reel was the next clue. At the end of the run, the fish came to the surface and rolled; staring at the size of the swirl, I realized it wasn't one of the coho, but a Chinook, the king of the salmon, and a fish stronger in every way than the coho I had been hoping for. As someone might say, things had just become very interesting.

The Chinook's runs were long and determined but, fortunately, only slightly offset from the beach which was a good thing since I could move with the fish and not lose all of my backing to one strong run. I fought the fish through a combination of doing nothing more than just holding on when it appeared at its strongest, and putting on as much pressure as I dared when it was closer to shore and I had a comfortable amount of line back on the reel. Usually at the end of each run, the fish would come to the top. Although it never jumped, the resulting boil only served to remind me of its size and strength, and how unlikely it was that I would land it.

Somewhere past the 30-minute mark, my knots were still holding and the fly hadn't pulled out. On the other hand, a number of my muscle groups were burning and my left hand was cramping badly where it had been cradling the rod. At this point, the fish seemed content to cruise between five and ten yards off the beach, depending on whether the waves were coming in or receding. Even though it was relatively close, the fish was just as inaccessible to me as if it had been 100 yards offshore and headed for the ferry terminal at Horseshoe Bay. While it had tired to the point where I could largely prevent it from moving further away, it was still powerful and stubbornly maintained its position in the trough.

Now that I could see it clearly, the slight touch of color along its body suggested that it was eager to move into the river. I also found myself wondering what I would do if I actually landed it. While there were arguments in favor of release, a Chinook on the barbecue is never a bad thing and, without proof, who would believe me? After all, a Chinook on the fly, especially off the beach, is not a common occurrence.

With the fish maintaining its position near shore, the barbecue seemed like a real possibility. However, beaching it proved to be impossible. The Chinook wouldn't turn on its side and, although I had enough control to bring the fish in on an incoming wave to the point where its belly rubbed on the sand, the force of the receding wave was enough to float it back into deeper water.

After trying this a few times, I was becoming concerned that my knots or the tippet itself wouldn't take much more of this tug-of-war. Given the alternatives, it seemed like the best approach would be to walk the fish along the shoreline up the river mouth and try to beach it in one of the back waters created by the flooding tide. It was a decent plan and, with no one around to assist me, was probably the only one with any chance of success.

The only problem was that I had at least 100 yards of walking to do, and I wasn't sure if my terminal gear was up to the task. No matter, it was my only choice. Fortunately, the fish didn't put up much of a fuss, acting somewhat like a well-trained dog on a leash as I walked along the beach, rod bowed, my prize to-be finning just offshore...



continued on next page

Beginner's Luck continued from previous page

Some ways up the beach, I found a spot with potential, a bit of an indentation in the shore, with less of a slope to deeper water. Large amounts of kelp remaining in the area also suggested that it might be a less energetic shore break, perhaps even suitable for beaching my fish. After waiting for just the right incoming wave, I backed up, sliding the fish into the backwater where, finally, it lay on its side in the shallows.

Before I could walk the twenty-odd feet back to the fish, the situation went from having possibilities to decidedly bad. The wave had been too large and, as it receded, it floated a bunch of the kelp and weedy bits off the sand. As they entangled in my leader and the fish, the entire mess slid into deeper water. Caught by the currents, the shapeless mass of seaweed was just a heavy weight on the line; it was impossible to move, let alone guide back to the shore. As I watched it rolling back and forth along the bottom with each wave, bringing the fish to hand seemed less important than preventing its suffocation and I pointed the rod straight at the mass and broke off the fly.

A few anxious moments passed before a large torpedo-like form took shape, hovering just above the pile of vegetation. Then, with deliberate speed, the Chinook followed the bottom contours to deeper water. Perhaps in a few weeks time, it would find its way to the spawning gravels and a final resting place. There, among the rocks, someone might even find the fly and wonder how it came to be there.

That was pretty much it for me. I was tired and a little disappointed but, overall, not displeased with the outcome. Later, heading back to town in search of a mocha, I found myself considering the size of the fish. 20 lbs? Definitely; perhaps even 25... In fact, 30 lbs was not out of question, given enough time to think about it. However, the satisfaction of a good fish story didn't compare with the sense of relief I had felt when the big fish came free of the kelp and started building speed across the flats.

Hello San Diego Fly Fishers

My name is Dick Wilkins from Poway. I can no longer fish, so I might as well sell the equipment. I would rather sell the items locally than on Ebay. All the equipment was purchased at Stroud's.

Sage Rod, DS1090 Graphite II, 10w x 9' for saltwater with a Scientific Angler System II reel, #1011

Used twice several years ago. Perfect condition. Sell the set for \$300.

Sage Rod, GFL 366 LL, $3w \times 6'6"$ with a Orvis Battenkill Disk 5/6 reel. My favorite and most used setup, good condition. Set the set for \$175.

Sage Rod, $5w \times 9'$ blank that I hand wrapped. I don't know what I would sell this for, but since its hand made I don't think anyone would be interested in it.

I also use to tie my own flys and have a lot of feathers, hooks and other stuff to get rid of, about \$200 worth. If you can sell the above rods and reels, I would be happy to donate the fly tying stuff to your club for classes. Attached is photo of the fly tying items.

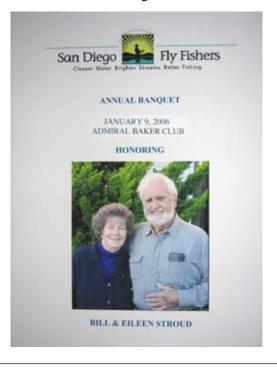




Recipients of the

Stroud Award

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



Cutoff date for **April** FINNY FACTS articles---Friday March 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 Thanks!!

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

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



Cortland

- Loomis
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- Hardy
- Sage
- Redington
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San Diego Fly Fishers Headquarters



1457 Morena Blvd San Diego, CA 92110 (619) 276-4822 www.stroudtackle.com Proprietors Eileen & Bill Stroud

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1992-Bob Camp 2000-Tom Smith

1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki

1994-Ed Velton2002-Larry Sorensen1995-Bob Wisner2003-Jim Tenuto1996-Gary Hilbers2004-Joe Bain1997-Jack Bentley2005-Jim Reeg1998-Gordie Zimm2006-John Kasten



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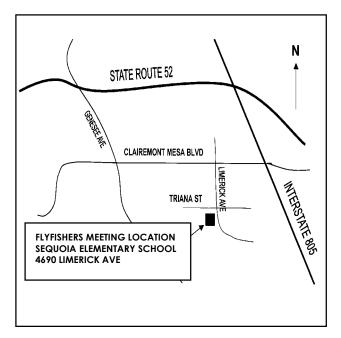
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Raffles-Jim Tenuto

Refreshments-

Maria Goldman

Trips- David Collins Video & Library-John Beckstrand and Howard Knop Web Page- David Collins www.sandiegoflyfishers.com SDFF E-mail tree-Kim Jones,

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 Stroud Tackle 1457 Morena Blvd. San Diego, CA 92110 619-276-4822

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Federation of Fly Fishers

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