

# FINNY FACTS

JUNE 2001

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Volume 6, No. 06

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

## It's Time Once Again for the SDFF Annual Raffle

*Over \$10,000 in prizes to include gift certificates, rods, reels, vises, and travel deals to mention a few.*

**Y**es, once again it is time for the extravaganza that we call the San Diego Fly Fishers Annual Raffle. As usual, there will be prizes galore. As of this writing, prizes were still being donated. See a partial list of prizes on page 3 available for some lucky winners. There will be no restrictions on the number of prizes one can win. Therefore the more tickets you purchase, not only will you have more chances to win but you

can win more than one prize. Tickets are \$5 each or six for \$25. Personally I'd go for at least 6 for \$25.

There will also be a silent auction featuring a two-for-one deal for the Saltery Lodge in Alaska and 3 days lodging with guide for the Flaming Gorge Lodge in Utah. These two items alone are valued at over \$3,000.

The fun starts at 7:30 PM on June 4th. Come early to view all of the prizes and **BUY MORE TICKETS!** Our master of ceremonies for the evening will be none other than Bill Stroud, back by popular demand.

This is the major fund raiser for the Club allowing us to continue our conservation efforts, video library, and top quality speakers brought to you each month.

And now down to some serious business brought to you by the accounting firm of Cutthroat Troutman and Bass, Inc.

### RULES FOR THE RAFFLE

- 1.) You need not be present to win, but we have to be able to read your name on the ticket!
- 2.) You can win more than one prize. The lucky ones will!
- 3.) We have used a special marking on each ticket. If the ticket doesn't have that marking on it, you won't be awarded the prize.
- 4.) Tickets may be purchased on the night of the raffle. In fact, it's considered to be quite sporting.
- 5.) If you win a prize and are not present, you have until the August meeting to retrieve the prize. Any prizes not claimed by the end of the August meeting will become the property of the Club.
- 6.) A "Swap and Barter" area will be set-up in the back of the auditorium. Winners who might want to trade prizes may use this area to improve their lot in life.
- 7.) Everyone is expected to have a great deal of fun.

### REMINDER

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

**Tom Westbrook and  
Jim Mann**

*Thank you, Mona Morebello*

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, June 4th, 2001  
7:30 PM

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

## Buy More Tickets

## Are you rrrrrrrready to rrrrrrrrrumble?

If April is the cruelest month, then June (at least for those of us brothers and sisters of the angle who are members of the San Diego Fly Fishers) must be the best month. The month of our Annual Raffle.

First of all some thanks are in order. Thanks to those who bought gift certificates for the raffle. These include **Gordie & Louie Zimm, Sam & Mona Morebello, The Presidents, The Poway Geezers, Kerrol Beck, Belden Rau and Bob Camp.** Pat Case donated, aptly, a fly rod case. We used **Louise Kassler's** generous \$200.00 to buy a number of raffle prizes. We also received very generous discounts from the following manufacturers: **G. Loomis, R.L. Winston, Umpqua Feather Merchants, Caddis Manufacturing, Scott Rod Co., Renzetti, Bauer, Ross Reels, and Whiting Farms.** Some manufacturers gave us outright gifts...we love these folks! A tip of the fishing hat goes out to **Jim Teeny, Inc., Abel Reels, Hook & Hackle, and SunGrubbies.com.**

And of course there are the **Stroud's.** **Bill and Eileen** once again gave generously to our raffle. Rods, reels, a net, the list goes on and on.

Somewhere in the next few pages you'll find a partial list of some our prizes. Trips, rods, reels, a vest, a pontoon boat, a float tube, fly boxes, a stripping basket, saddles and necks for the fly tiers, a Renzetti vise, gift certificates, guidebooks, club logo items, and even a leader wallet stuffed with leaders and sink tips.

Our rules, similar to those we instituted last year, can also be found in this issue of *FINNY FACTS*. You can win

more than one prize. We will also establish a little swap and barter area. Buy a few more tickets the night of the raffle and sit down and enjoy yourself. The tickets are priced at **\$5.00 each, 6-for-\$25.00.**

It'll be a great evening.

As I predicted, my stint as Master of Ceremonies was short lived. One year in a row! Back leading the charge will be **Bill Stroud.**



JIM TENUTO

**Harry Smith,** the bird pattern and one of the most unusual methods of fishing I had ever seen again proved out the "big tent" theory. Harry's unique presentation was enhanced by his very dry sense of humor. He also brought along the tools of his rather different trade. If you get an adrenaline rush when a fish takes your fly you would need a new supply of the stuff given the fact that Harry once counted 400 takes in a single three-hour fishing session. The movie was the graphic proof that Harry's method works as bass attacked the bird pattern with a vengeance. No wonder he calls his film "Teeth Marks on My Fly Rod." His latest invention, a fishing "glove" with three "rods" attached convinced me I was in the presence of fishing's most outrageous innovator. Some members left swearing that they would be trying Harry's method.

The attendance for the meeting again was well over 100! We are expecting an even larger crowd for the raffle.

The passing of the video library was accomplished at our last meeting. **Buck**

**Parker** has agreed to handle the job of being the lending library of videos and CD-ROMs for the club. He takes over the mantle from **John Gauld**, who held the job for many years. Buck agreed to a one-year term, which makes a lot of sense. It's not too early to think about replacing Buck next summer.

What a great job! You get to order about \$500 worth of new videos and CDs each year, watch them before anyone else, and become one of the most sought after and popular members of the club.

The Styrofoam fish is filling up. Each time I visit Stroud's Tackle there are few more creations from the vises of our members. My favorite is the "Texas Longhorn" fly, a comic creation that sports a pair of broad horns and evil little eyes.

July's meeting is our Fly Tying Demonstration meeting. Program chair **Jim Reeg** is still looking for people with vises (and maybe vices as well) to help put on this program. We have a number of very talented tiers who will be showing their skills.

I received a surprising e-mail from my son, finishing his sophomore year at UC Santa Barbara. He wrote: "*Last night I had the extreme desire to go fishing. I'm thinking that*

I'd like to bring some of my stuff up here (just the rod/reel and necessities, no waders, no boots) so that I can go in the area. No rush of course, but would that be alright?"

Yeah, I think it is quite all right.



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## 2001 SDFP Raffle Prizes

Here is a partial list of some of the raffle prizes that will be given away at our June meeting:

- Nearly \$1,000.00 in gift certificates from Stroud's Tackle
- Redington Premium Fly Fishing Outfit
- Loomis Fly Tying Bag
- Bauer Little Mac Series LM2 4-6 weight reel
- G. Loomis Adventure Series 4-piece, 9 foot, 5-weight rod
- Boat and fishing passes for Lake Cuyamaca
- Caddis Manufacturing Navigator IV float tube with buckle fins
- Professor 3 Fly Tying Kit
- Renzetti Travel Vise with base
- Tiemco Hook Starter Kit (21 packages of 25 hooks)
- 4 assorted Whiting 1/4 saddles
- Wood River Stripping Basket
- Ketchum Release hook remover
- Wilderness Adventures Fly Fishers Guides to Northern California, Colorado & Montana
- Folstaff Folding Wading Staff
- Salt Water Fly Tying kit
- Scott Rod Company SAS 905 5-weight rod
- G. Loomis Adventure Series 2-piece, 9 foot, 9-weight
- Orvis Leader Wallet filled with leaders and sink tips
- Multi-rod Travel Tube
- Orvis Battenkill 3-4 weight reel
- Buck's Bag Wader Bag
- Ross Reels Cimarron 2 4-6 weight reel

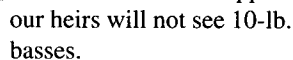
And here are some of our Silent Auction Prizes:

- R.L. Winston Rod Company IM6, 6 1/2 foot, 2 weight rod (Value: \$695.00)
- Framed 1990 California Wild Trout Stamp & Print
- 3 days lodging, 3 days guided fishing at Flaming Gorge Lodge (Value: \$1,200)
- Two-for-one, day of guided fishing with Mike Kaul in Pinedale, WY (Value: \$175.00)
- Two-for-one week of fishing at Saltery Lodge in Alaska (Value: \$1,920.00)



presumed that the next world record bass will be worth about 8 million dollars. It's a shame our **Ned Sewell** didn't get anything near that sum for his flyrod record — which still stands. But with

millions as an attractant a lot of fishermen will try for the record and no doubt more big fish will be taken — thus further reducing the big gene pool. Soon enough bass will be taken to reduce the largest size to less than 10 lbs. and “big genes” won’t matter — unless catch and release becomes a way of life, which must happen or



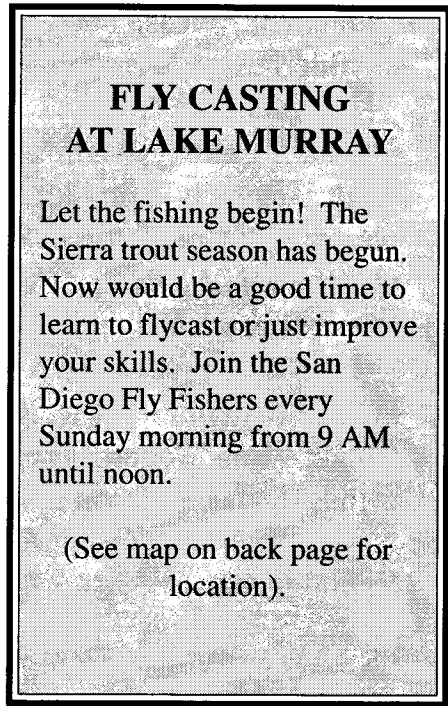
our heirs will not see 10-lb. basses.

REDDING

Aerial trout planting will resume this summer in some parts of Northern California, state officials said.

State officials have decided to resume plantings in 25 percent of the Sierra because recent research shows a healthy population of Cascade frogs.

— *From Union-Tribune news services,  
May 2001*





**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 and Lynn Atnip are making all of the arrangements so you know you'll get the best trip for the best price! Put it on your calendar NOW!

*Newcomer from the U.K. Learns  
About the Fishing Ways of America*

### Like a Fish Out of Water

by Paul Sharman

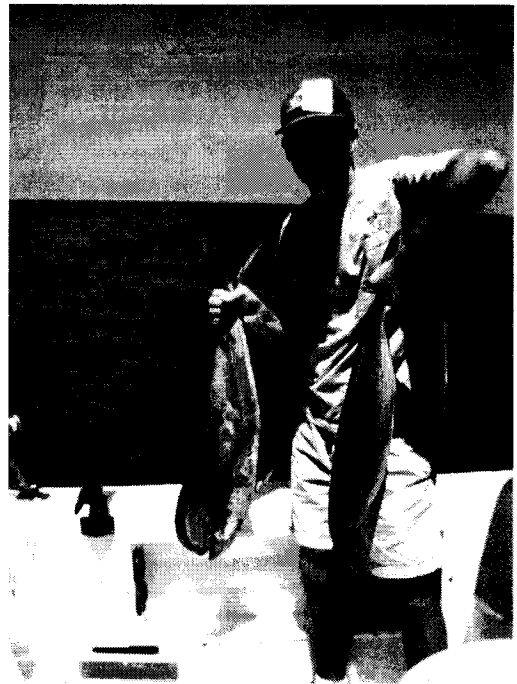
As a newcomer to these shores approximately 2 years ago, I was not exactly sure what to expect on the angling scene. I knew from fishing magazines back home in England, that Large Mouth Bass were THE targeted species in freshwater, and that San Diego was one of the main centers for ocean sport fishing, particularly for tuna, in the country. Beyond that I really did not know what other species existed and what methods were employed to catch them, but I did know that was not going to stop me going out and trying.

As with most anglers who have a fair amount of experience, I was comfortable with the methods I had learned and used to date and was sure I would have no problems in just 'doing the same thing' over here. Problem number one! I did not bring any tackle with me apart from my trusty Mitchell 300 series spinning reel and I quickly found after a couple of initial visits to my local Big-K that there was not much that I could instantly recognize on the shelves, so putting together a new

arsenal was going to be an experience and an education in itself.

So I decided to start small and work my way up. First purchase was a light Mitchell spinning rod to match the reel, 6 lb line and one of those boxed sets of panfish jigs. Well my first trips to Lake Dixon and Lake Hodges were definitely educational if not productive (I learned the phrase "skunked" very early on). I come from an area of slow winding rivers and farm ponds/lakes on flat ground, so seeing these lakes where the sides plunged down from the rocks and boulders everywhere and relatively little bankside vegetation caused much head scratching in those early days as really did not know where to target and with what. Over time, and with the help of many people, I have had to start from scratch from all areas in order to enjoy any level of success. Not just for Bass but all species. The fishing styles, not to mention the local environment are so different between our two countries. Where before I spent much time ledgering or float fishing, and by 'float' I mean thin

sticks of sensitive balsa wood or peacock quills in dozens of sizes and shapes to match the conditions, all delicately balanced by split shot on the line to quiver



at the slightest touch of the bait (which I will come to next), not the ubiquitous red and white bobbers that are the norm here, I

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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## MARCH BROWN SPIDER

Hook: Tiemco 3769 or any 2x heavy and 1x long nymph hook size 10 to 16  
Thread: Orange 8/0 or 6/0  
Rib: Fine gold tinsel, oval or flat  
Body: Hare's mask dubbing  
Hackle: Brown partridge hackle or mottled hen saddle hackle



1. Start the thread at the 1/4 point. At this point tie in the gold tinsel ribbing material. Wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook securing the ribbing to the top of the shank.
2. Dub a tapered body from the bend of the hook to just behind the eye, leaving enough room for the head.
3. Wind the ribbing forward through the body in several even wraps. Tie the tinsel off just in front of the body and trim the excess.
4. Select a partridge feather or a hen saddle feather with fibers the length of the hook shank including the eye. Trim the fibers off the right side of the feather and tie it in by the but behind the eye. Wrap the prepared feather back towards the body in three or four turns. Wind the thread over the hackle tip and then wind it through the hackle in two or three turns towards the eye. Then locate and trim out the hackle tip.
5. The thread should now be just behind the eye. Stroke the hackle fibers back over the body and wrap a neat neat. Whip finish and apply head cement.

This old fashioned wet fly has been around a long time. The hare's ear material and the soft hackle create lots of action and it does attract fish. It is simple to tie and it deserves a place in your fly box.

Tom Smith



**H**owdy friends and Sierra Drifters. I sincerely hope you and yours are in good health with short term plans to visit us here in the Eastern Sierra this spring.

We have had incredible weather for the most part since our last report. Daytime highs have reached 80 degrees in the upper valleys, with hot ambient air temps in the Owens Valley. There have been afternoon westerly winds most days, but not severe enough to thwart attempts at some excellent fly-fishing opportunities. For those of you planning a trip soon, bring it all. Shorts-parkas. The forecast is for a cooling trend by the weekend.

The snow pack has been melting due to the warm air temps, and this has increased water flow in most of the creeks and tail waters in this region.

Fishing in most areas has been spotty, with a below average amount of fish in the tributaries leading into Crowley Lake, and Bridgeport Reservoir. The fish are on the small side to boot. On the other hand fishing pressure has been heavy in those areas that are consistently fishing well.

Best fishes to all, see you on the water.

## Lower Owens River: Fair

The flow rates have been increased to 250cfs. Wading is difficult in the better runs at this flow level in the wild trout section. You will need to use a significant amount of weight to get those bead head hares ear, #16-18, flashback pheasant tails, #14-18, and caddis larva or olive rock worm patterns down to the fish. Some caddis dries are present early and late in the day, #18-20, dark bodied, and #16

sulphur may flies are coming off late a.m.

It has been very warm in the Owens Valley this week and you will experience a mid-day hunger strike. Find some shade, or fish the undercut banks and deep pools during this time frame.

## SIERRA DRIFTERS



TOM LOE

good fishing using streamer patterns with HEAVY sink tip lines.

Butch Chinn and Randy Carter from Arcadia, Ca., both members of the Pasadena Fly Fishers, took a drift with us recently and Butch landed a slammer! This large hook jawed male rainbow hit a sculpin imitation in a shady, overgrown, deep section of the river. Well-done Butchie!

You can see Butch's fish along with many others by visiting our website at <http://sierradrifters.com>. Click on fish report please.

## Pleasant Valley Reservoir: Fair

The powerhouse is cranking and the flows during the daylight hours do not allow for consistent fishing opportunities in the river section here. The reservoir is spotty at best with the bulk of the fish concentrated at the inlet area. Troll olive and brown streamer patterns with a touch of crystal flash #8-12. Damsel fly nymphs will also get some attention #10-14. Use a full or heavy sink tip line.

## Bishop Creek, Intake 2: Good

Heavy plantings have this area a good choice for those who do not seek solitude. The run-off is not affecting this area as of yet. This area is popular with all types of anglers. Streamer patterns in the deeper sections, and Adams #14-18 will work for the browns in the riffles and dry fly sections. Hatchery fish are not too discriminating. If you are having trouble finding some amiable fish this is a good area. Great place for the kids or novices.

## Upper Owens River: Poor-fair

Another slow year here it appears. There are some quality fish in the section above the Benton Crossing Bridge known as "Long Ears", but they are scarce. The spring run of Kamloops is on the skinny side and most of these fish are 10"-12". Use roe patterns in pink or yellow, San Juan worms, and hares ear bead head nymphs while fishing them under a strike indicator or dry fly.

There is another problem that is confronting this area also. A small snail that emanates from New Zealand has invaded this watershed and is threatening to destroy habitat and plant growth along this drainage. Pete Thomas, a staff writer from the Los Angeles Times did a fine job of reporting this potential disaster recently. If you wade here please be aware of spawning redds in the shallow gravel areas, and clean your wading gear with a mild solution of bleach and water before fishing another area. I keep my wading boots in a bucket of water with a dash of bleach. This prevents the boots from drying out, and the mild bleach kills most organisms including this snail and the whirling disease parasite. If you store your boots indoors at a condo, house or R.V. it will keep your wife from scolding you when those caddis or mayflies start hatching from inside the house!

Most of you will fish several areas during your stay here, if you do not "sanitize" your wading gear contamination could

continued on next page



occur in Hot Creek, The East Walker, etc. Studies are being conducted and some notices are being placed in various locations to inform other anglers.

East Walker River: Good-fair

Flows are on the rise this week and are currently 191cfs. Still very fishable, but if you are on the river during periods of rising water you may have a tough time catching.

I suggest a San Juan Worm with a bead head dropper. Pheasant tails, prince nymphs, hares ear, and stonefly imitations will all get takes when presented properly.

I have reports of some very nice fish being landed here, but it has been very crowded below the Bridgeport Reservoir Dam in the "Miracle Mile" section.

West Walker: Good

This is a freestone creek and it shall not be long before this area is washed out. A dry fly and dropper bead head is a good choice here for both hatchery and wild trout on the smaller side. I enjoy fishing in the Pickle Meadow area located near the Sonora Pass turnoff by Hwy.395.

Hot Creek: Very Good

The most consistent fishing in the area as of this report. Mornings are best until the wind picks up mid-day. Small mayflies #18-22 are your best bet here for surface action. #18-20 bead head nymphs fished under a dry used as an indicator will also get good action. Small San Juan Worms #14-16 work well here also. Flows are beginning to increase on Mammoth Creek so look for off colored and rising water here soon if the weather pattern continues.

If you do not mind the wind, fish the afternoons here. Fishing will be slower, but you will have more open water to cover, as there are fewer anglers at this time. Use long 12' leaders tapered to 6x fluorocarbon.

McGee Creek, Hilton Creek, Crooked Creek, Big Springs: Fair

The tributaries leading into Crowley are all fishing below average for this time of year. There are some "pods" of Kamloops Rainbows in the lower sections near the lake but they are down in numbers as compared to prior years. San Juan Worms or roe patterns, fished under a dry or small indicator will be the choice for these areas. Keep a low profile when approaching the bank. I suggest you fish upstream and across to avoid spooking these critters.

Crowley Lake: Fair -good

The excellent weather has made up for the spotty fishing this week. Immense fishing pressure since the opener has tapered off a bit mid-week. We have had some good fishing followed by periods of sporadic action. The fish are spread out over the entire lake, with no area having a dense concentration.

Morning surface temps have increased to 54 degrees. This has triggered the chironomid cycles to begin. I expect fishing to pick up this month for fly fishers.

Dr.Meryl Bolton from Palm Springs, Ca., and his buddy Keith Franklin from Hemet, Ca., spent a day with us on our flats boat with the big fish of the day going to the "Doc". A gorgeous Lohattan cutthroat took a #18 chironomid pattern fished near the bottom in 11 feet of water. Keith and the Doc landed two dozen other rainbows and browns to 19".

Mike Kaplan from Yorba Linda, Ca., and his buddies returned for their annual spring visit to the Eastern Sierra and booked a trip on the "Fish Magnet". Mikey and the boys schooled many trout while fishing chironomid imitations with our unique method of stillwater nymphing from the flats boat. Mike bested a big Kamloops rainbow then released the fish after a quick photo.

You may check these pictures out by visiting our website at <http://sierradrifters.com> Click on the fish report button located in the navigation bar please.

Rush Creek-June Lake Loop: Fair-good

The lakes are fishing on the slow side with small hatchery fish comprising the bulk of the catch. Some nice Alpers planted fish are being caught, with a big brown falling to a lure out of June. Rush Creek is fishing well near the inlet to Silver Lake. Flows are still good here; expect the levels to begin rising soon. I like Adams patterns #14-18 on Rush. Roe patterns and San Juan Worms will get takes also when fished under an indicator.

Be the fly...

Tom Loe  
Sierra Drifters Guide Service  
Phone 760-935-4250  
[www.sierradrifters.com](http://www.sierradrifters.com)  
email: [driftfish@qnet.com](mailto:driftfish@qnet.com)

## FFF Needs Your Help

### Greetings!

**Here is your opportunity to help us at FFF National Office with our web site. We are planning on making some changes and need your input. Please go to our site at [fedflyfishers.org](http://fedflyfishers.org) and complete the survey under "We Want Your Feedback". Your name will be entered to win our new FFF Fly Encyclopedia, a retail value of \$40.00. Thanks for your assistance!**





## Like a Fish Out of Water

continued from page 5

am now fishing artificial lures almost exclusively which I very rarely did back home.

When I do get the chance to fish my 'home' methods here, I find that I cannot use any method of attracting the fish to the area and so therefore to my baited hook. Chumming, or as I know it, ground baiting, is a very common practice in England, and many people arrive at the waterside with buckets of mixtures ready to create a cloud of particles and scent with a few actual samples of hookbaits mixed in, both to attract and then to keep the targeted species in the area.

Then there is the absence of our number one hookbait also - maggots, the larval stage of the fly. The closest thing here is small nightcrawlers or mealworms, but even they are 2 or 3 times the size of your

average maggot. As panfish bait I am betting they would be excellent, but I guess I will just have to continue assuming for now.

With spring just around the corner, I am looking forward for the chance to re-try areas, species and techniques I experimented with last year and to move forward into new areas. Fly-fishing, another style I grew up with is high on my agenda this year, targeting Bass & panfish in and around San Diego, trout in the Sierras and particularly Yellowtail and Dorado out on the ocean. I was watching with interest last year the reports of Bonefish in the bays, and given time and opportunity I am looking forward to being able to perhaps persuade one or two to come my way. They say 'variety is the spice of life' and in San Diego, it is the variety of fishing opportunities available that provide the spice for me.



## Clever Fisherman

A man was stopped by a game-warden in Northern Michigan recently with two buckets of fish leaving a lake well known for its fishing. The game warden asked the man,

"Do you have a license to catch those fish?"

The man replied to the game warden, "No, sir. These are my pet fish."

"Pet fish?!" the warden asked.

"Yes, sir. Every night I take these here fish down to the lake and let them swim around for a while. I whistle and they jump back into their buckets, and I take em home."

"That's a bunch of hooey! Fish can't do that!"

The man looked at the game warden for a

moment, and then said,

"Here, I'll show you. It really works."

"O.K. I've GOT to see this!." The game warden was curious now.

The man poured the fish in to the lake and stood and waited. After several minutes, the game warden turned to the man and said,

"Well?"

"Well, what?" the man responded.

"When are you going to call them back?" The game warden prompted.

"Call who back?" The man asked.

"The fish." replied the warden.

"What fish?" the man asked.

## San Diego Fly Fishers Annual Raffle Coming June 4th!

Tickets on sale now. \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25. Buy your tickets at Stroud Tackle or at the next Sdff meeting.

## Alaska On the Cheap

Being short of independently wealthy, I have been researching lodges offering discounts due to parties canceling, etc. I found the Port Lions Lodge ([www.portlionslodge.com](http://www.portlionslodge.com)) on Kodiak Island, which is offering the week of August 12-18 for \$2,395 (regular \$3,395). This is not one of the BS shoulder season "discounts" for the times between species, but the PRIME coho run for them + halibut. I have booked myself, and they have about 9 slots left...anyone else want to go?

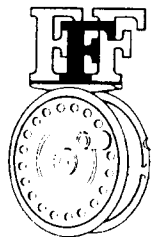
Pat Case



There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.

John Beckstand, [birdnest@utm.net](mailto:birdnest@utm.net)





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## From the FFF Clubwire News

Submitted by Bob Campbell of the Flint Hills  
Fly Fishing Club of Manhattan, Kansas

### CASTING IN THE DARK

**A**s I think about it, a recent experience kind of expands the old arguments of warm vs. cold water, fresh vs. salt water to swimming fish vs. flying mammal.

The story starts with a trip to the White River last fall. A couple of us decided to follow a fellow angler's lead and do some night fishing. We lined up in the catch and keep area and started throwing line into the dark. I was enjoying myself but was not catching anything. My friends Charlie and Sean on the other hand, were catching fish. Somewhat confused I asked Charlie what fly he had on. He replied something vague. I had on a comparable fly, but still no luck.

He let me stew for a little longer and then asked how I was doing. I told him. He then pondered out loud what the problem might be (my guess he was trying to get Sean in on his good fortune of having an inept neighbor next to him). You know he was catching fish and so was Sean but I was still with no luck. He let me stew a little longer. While I was standing there thigh deep in cold water, Charlie and Sean were talking, laughing and having a good time. Catching fish seemed to be very funny. I could not tell what they were saying but they were enjoying themselves. Did I mention the water was cold? I finally just had it; I asked Charlie what the deal was. Why were they catching fish

and I wasn't? He let me in on their joke. He said that I had missed at least 4 or 5 strikes that he could tell, probably more. He told me that I couldn't just stand there. I had to set the hook whenever I "heard" a strike.

Boy, they were having fun...at my expense. Well I took their advice and started fishing by sound. I will admit that the fishing got better and I caught a few fish. Lesson learned. The next time I went fishing at Beaver Lake I went in the water to try out my new found knowledge in night fishing. This time I was prepared. I was set to do a little fishing "by ear". I figured I could do it because that's the way I parallel park my car, you go in reverse until you hear a bump then forward until you hear something, etc. Well anyway, I was standing there in about the same spot. I might have been a little tentative at first but my confidence grew. I was catching a few fish. My technique was to pull on the line/rod when I heard anything.

I heard a car door slam in the campground, I set the hook. I heard some rustling in the trees, I set the hook. Someone sneezed, I set the hook. You get the picture. Well one time I heard something, I pulled, and there was weight. It wasn't like a fish struggling against the hook, but it wasn't like a snagged leaf either. I turned on my headlamp while I was stripping in my line.

I was unable to figure what I had in the darkness. My first thought was a frog but it was the wrong color. I then thought I had caught a mouse but that couldn't be it. That is when I saw the creature's wing. I was shocked. My first thoughts were how was I going to get this poor animal off my hook, not to mention where was it hooked. All sorts of thoughts were going through my head. I was at a loss. A friend was next to me so I asked for some advice. He suggested that I take him to the shore so, when I released it, it wouldn't drown. I thought that was good advice and made my way to the shore. That bat had every appendage wrapped around the line. I think he was as anxious to get unhooked as I was to get this poor thing off my line. I released it on the bank with my forceps. I had snagged him in the wing. That little guy was gone in a flash.

Who would have thought that bat fishing would be fun? If you would like to try your hand at that fish vs. mammals thing I would recommend a light trout rod (3-5wt) and definitely an elk hair caddis because that is what bats are biting on in the fall.

Here's to good fishing, tight lines and whatever might be on the end of that line!





**PLEASE HELP STOP  
THE SENSELESS  
TORTURE OF WORMS.**



**FULL-SERVICE FLY SHOP & YOUR GATEWAY TO BAJA.  
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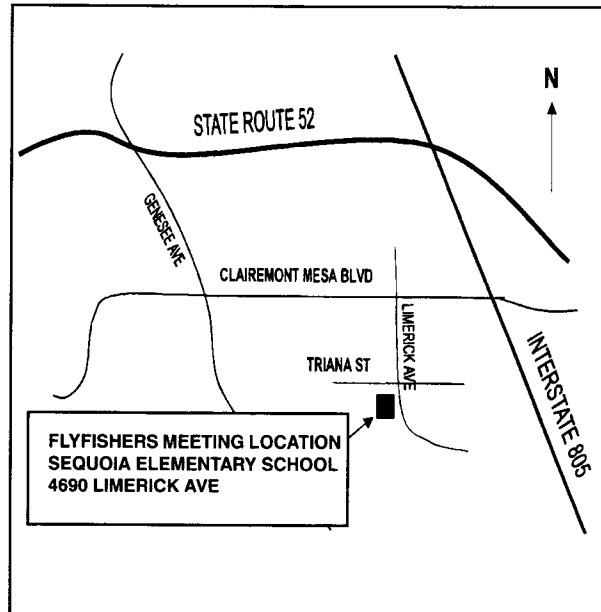
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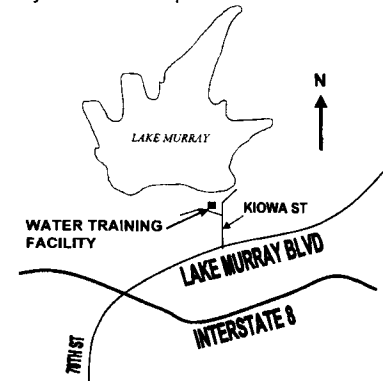
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