

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

NOVEMBER 2006

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 11, No. 11

November Meeting

Lucky Ketcham on Fishing the Eastern Sierras

Our own San Diego Fly Fishers **Lucky Ketcham** will be speaking on his recent trip to Mammoth Lakes, CA and other Eastern Sierra locations.

Dennis Ditmars Remembered



MEETING NOTICE

Monday, November 6th, 2006
7:30 PM

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

REMINDER

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

**Lee Anderson
and Don Davis**

Thank You, Mona Morebello

An Alaska Adventure

by Andy Castiglione



Look at the smile on Andy's face.

It was the last week of September of 2006 when **Jack Bentley** led a band of eight hearty fly fishermen on his annual fishing trip to Alaska via Italio River Adventures. We saw bears ...rain...bald eagles ...rain silver salmon...rain...glaciers...rain ...wolves and more rain. It was a seasoned crew that included **Pat Case, Dick Mount, John O'Brien, Don Russell, Bob Miller, Jack Bentley** and **Phil Bentley** (Jack's brother) and myself. Whenever a bunch of experienced old timers get together, there are always great stories (some exaggerated of course) and good fellowship. But instead of writing another long fishing article, let's let our pictures tell the story.



Jack in his raingear.

continued on page 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: NOVEMBER 2006

"I never lost a little fish - yes, I am free to say; It always was the biggest fish I caught that got away."
Eugene Field

Many thanks to
Peter

Piconi for a great presentation at our general meeting on October 9th! It never ceases to amaze me how much local talent we have in this sport and their willingness to share their expertise (and some of their secrets). For those of you who may have missed it, **Peter** demonstrated a new surf/bay fly he has developed and is currently using; Umpqua Feather Merchants will be distributing this fly in the near future.

For those of you considering a "last trip" to the Eastern Sierras before the season closes, I would highly recommend it. I returned last night from three days in Mammoth and it was everything one could hope for. The weather was great, the foliage beautiful and the fishing (and catching) fabulous.

As I mentioned last month and at our last meeting, **Lucky Ketcham** is starting our annual membership renewal drive.



LEE McELRAVY

You should be receiving your renewal information in the mail in the next several weeks. **Lucky** has been doing a great job maintaining our membership records and he needs your cooperation in completing and returning your membership renewal as soon as possible.

Jack Dennis will be presenting the program at our meeting on December 4th. Jack has agreed to conduct a fly tying seminar on Sunday, December 3rd and we will have seminar registration information available at the November general meeting. However, we still need to find an appropriate location for the Sunday seminar. If you know of an available conference or meeting room, please contact George Gates or me. We need to identify the location prior to the November general meeting so we can have complete information available for all registrants.

It may seem slightly premature, but 2007 is fast-approaching. Elsewhere in this edition you will see the first announce-

ment regarding the annual Stroud Banquet on Monday, January 8th. Given the time necessary for evaluating candidates for the Stroud Award and selecting the ultimate winner, it is most important that nominations be received as soon as possible. Nominee Application Forms are available on our website and must be received by a member of the Board no later than October 31st. Please consider nominating someone you believe to be worthy of this significant Award.

On a related note, **Louie Zimm** is currently leading our Nominating Committee for officers and directors for 2007. Having had the pleasure of working with a series of great Boards over the past several years, I can tell you an energetic Board of Directors makes a world of difference in the success of our Club's efforts each year. We all have significant demands on our time and I appreciate that active volunteers are in great demand. Please, if you would like to contribute to our efforts and you have an interest in serving on the Board, contact **Louie** and let him know.

See you all on November 6th! 

Mark Your Calendar for SDFF Annual Banquet

Annual banquet date is Monday, January 8th. Details to follow.

The Bob Marriot's 17th Annual Fly Fishing Educational Fair is returning home under the big top at the shop: 2634 W. Orangethorpe Ave., Fullerton, CA 714.578.1747

Saturday, November 18th, 2006

9am-6pm

Sunday, November 19th, 2006

9am-3pm



Chollas Lake Young Anglers Summer Tournament

Many thanks go to Mike Rivkin of the IGFA for organizing the Chollas Lake Young Anglers Summer Tournament on Saturday, August 26th at Chollas Lake Park.

We celebrated the end of summer along the beautiful shoreline of Chollas Lake. Kids from many walks of life caught catfish, bass, and panfish, and learned about tackle and techniques from some of San Diego's leading anglers as well as Peter Guabe of the IGFA.



Joe Bain provided long hours of background work ensuring that the catfish were planted at the right time and contacted many VIP's to get the word out. Joe, what would we do without you? We are very grateful for all your hard work!

Paul Woolery and **Dick Mount** organized the free tackle rentals.

SDFF members spent a very happy and busy Friday putting up the the rods and reels and putting together gift packages for the 200 kids in the tournament.

Our own **Lee McElravy** directed the the San Diego Fly Fishers support of this wonderful activity.



On Saturday SDFF volunteers were very busy registering the kids, handing out tackle, and certifying catches.

Gates opened at 6:30AM with fishing from 7-10AM. Raffle and awards presentation followed. Prizes were awarded in ten (10) age groups from 6-15. The top Junior Angler qualified for the IGFA Junior World Championships in Florida!

There was plenty of free food for everyone as well as raffle prizes for all 200 participants. Free loaner tackle was supplied.

This great event was sponsored in part by a grant from the San Diego Fly Fishers as well as the following groups:

Friends of Rollo (who supplied the catfish), Tuna Club Foundation, International Game Fish Association (IGFA)

San Diego Parks and Recreation
San Diego Yacht Club Anglers
San Diego Sportfishing Council.



The Naturalist's Nook

Bruce Campbell

Locally, the mayflies of late summer and fall are *Baetis* species. This genus is famous for being multi-brooded, with emergences triggered by daily water temperature increases past about 54° F. The fall species are considerably smaller than the spring emergers (#20s vs #14s). I have collected *Baetis* up until November. I typically fish the dry fly when *Baetis* are coming off in the fall, because nymphs create too much disturbance in skinny water. I have also had good success on larger

colored mayfly in late June that could be *E. infrequens*. I include this mayfly here because the artificials that imitate its various life stages are effective searching patterns on San Diego streams during the summer.

Tricorythodes fallax is the important hatch during July and August, especially on the sand-bottomed glides of local streams. I discovered that there were trout in San Diego streams because of *T. fallax*. I arrived one morning a little before 8 am to hike from the Pine Valley Creek trailhead down the Secret Canyon trail. As I crossed the stream an hour or so later, I noticed insects were flying over the creek, and saw fish rising in the openings in the watercress. I came back with my rod a week later, and found that around 8 am any summer morning, millions of tiny black mayflies emerged from the streamside vegeta-

Rancho State Park in the first week of July. At first, I thought I was seeing a Yellow Cabbage butterfly, but then it landed near me and I saw the three tails extending from the last abdominal segment. I captured the insect and took it back to the lab to identify it. I have not seen it since (but I haven't made a concerted effort). *Hexagenia* may be one of the mayflies that emerges at night locally.

Whirling Disease (WD) Update.

WD is now present in all Western States, except for New Mexico, according to the latest information from the Whirling Disease Foundation. The following table shows how WD has spread throughout the Western US.

Benzathonium chloride has now been found to be effective in eliminating the Whirling Disease parasite. You are

Mayfly Species	Nymph	Emerger	Dun	Spinner
<i>Baetis</i>	#18-22 Pheasant Tail	#18-20 Partridge and Olive	#20 Parachute Adams or Blue Wing Olive	Not important locally
<i>Ephemerella infrequens</i>	#16-18 Hares Ear	#16-18 Tan Soft Hackle	#16-18 Parachute Pale Morning Dun	Not important locally
<i>Tricorythodes fallax</i>	-	-	-	#20-22 Tiny Black Spinners
<i>Hexagenia</i>			#10 Big Yellow May	

Eastern Sierra and Cascade streams with #18-20 Partridge and Olive soft hackles. *Baetis* emergences continue into winter, although the hatch window gets pretty narrow as the water cools. By mid-November, IF the water temperature gets to 54° (usually early afternoon), an hour spent fishing this hatch can be a lot of fun.

I have not captured *Ephemerella infrequens*, the Pale Morning Dun, on local streams. I have seen a small, light

tion and began flying upstream, rising and falling, as the males sought out the high flying females. From 9 to 10 am (almost to the minute), mating will occur and the spent females and males will fall to the surface and die. Within minutes past ten, the trout's surface feeding activity will shut off like switch had been thrown.

I have only seen *Hexagenia* once in San Diego county, near dusk on the Sweetwater River inside Cuyamaca

probably familiar with benzathonium choride as a mild but effective antiseptic known as Zephiran. Studies by the WD Foundation have shown that Zephiran can be sprayed on gear (such as breathable and neoprene waders) and left on for about 5 minutes, then rinsed off. Zephiran has the great advantage over chlorine of not oxidizing wader materials, and an advantage over Formula 409 of not requiring immersion.

continued on next page



Whirling Disease Western US	CA	NV	UT	MT	ID	OR	WA
SF American R	X						
Feather	X						
Trinity R	X						
Owens R	X						
Battle Cr	X						
Putah Cr	X						
Deer Cr	X						
Truckee R		X					
Carson R.		X					
E. Walker R.		X					
Walker L.		X					
Topaz L.		X					
Pyramid L.		X					
Lk. Tahoe		X					
Ogden R.			X				
Weber R.			X				
Provo R.			X				
Sevier R.			X				
Beaver R.			X				
Otter Cr.			X				
Beaverhead				X			
Big Hole R.				X			
Jefferson R.				X			
Madison R.				X			
Gallatin R.				X			
Clark Fork R.				X			
Bitterroot R.				X			
Flathead R.				X			
Blackfoot R.				X			
Missouri R.				X			
Yellowstone R.				X			
St. Joe R.					X		
Middle Fk Salmon					X		
Big Lost R.					X		
Big Wood R.					X		
S. Fk Boise R.					X		
Henrys Fk.					X		
Teton R.					X		
Coeur d'Alene R					X		
Lemhi R.					X		
Salmon Falls Cr.					X		
Henrys Lake					X		
Grande Ronde						X	X
Metolius R.						X	
Umpqua R.						X	
Rogue R.							
Willamette R.						X	
Klickitat R.							X



FLY OF THE MONTH



Chris Broomell taught these two midge patterns for the Lower Owens in March 2004 and 2005, at the Ontario Fly Fishing Show. (chris@goldcoastflies.com) Notes and picture by Lucky Ketcham, San Diego Fly Fishers, revised August 26, 2006.

Owens River Midge Larva - a simple effective fly for the Lower Owens River

Hook: TMC 2487 Light wire scud hook size 16 or 18
Thread: None
Rib: Ultra fine gold wire
Body: Very fine olive or tan dubbing.

Smash the barb and mount the light wire scud hook in the vice. Behind the eye of the hook attach a three inch strand of ultra fine gold wire. Just wrap the wire on the bare hook behind the eye to the bend. Select an almost invisible amount of light olive very fine dubbing and sparsely apply to the wire. Wrap the gold wire and dubbing to the eye of the hook and trim wire. No head cement is necessary. The gold wire should show through the fine dubbing. Fish this fly bouncing along the bottom or as a dropper.

Bead Head Owens River Midge Pupa by Chris Broomell

Hook: TMC 2487 Light wire scud hook size 16 or 18
Thread: Danville 6/0 black or yellow/gold (You must be able to flatten the thread)
(Bodies can be red, black, grey, tan, cream and yellow.)
Head: Size #14 gun metal Japanese glass bead. (very small beads)
Collar: Natural or black ostrich herl, 4 or 5 wraps
Thorax: Size #14 bright red Japanese glass bead. Chris original said they were #15's
Shuck or gill: Short piece of UV tan crystal flash
Body: Black or Yellow thread flattened
Rib: Spun black or yellow thread, spiral wrapped.

Directions: Remove the barb of a light wire scud hook. Thread first a gun metal grey small bead and then a red very small bead on the hook. Move the grey bead to the eye and make a small jam knot behind the bead. Attach the ostrich herl and make 4 or 5 wraps of herl. Wrap two tight wraps of thread and trim excess ostrich herl. Make a very small whip finish and cut off the thread. Slide the red bead up as close as possible to the ostrich and thread. Push it with your finger nail. If you put too much thread on the whip finish it will not look right. (Use less thread on your next fly.) Pick a small amount of UV tan crystal flash, one or two fibers. Attach it right behind the red glass bead to prevent lumps in the

continued on next page



Fly of the Month

continued from previous page

thread. Pull it fairly tight and flatten the Danville black or yellow gold thread before making a smooth wrap of thread to the back bend of the hook. Keep the crystal flash tight and on top of the hook. Trim the shuck or gill about two hook eyes beyond the end of the thread body. Spin the thread bobbin to make a tight thread rib. Wrap the tight thread forward in a loose spiral, leaving about a hook diameter between each wrap. Whip finish behind the red bead and trim off the thread.

Note the second year I watched Chris tie this fly he attached the ostrich herl after the fly was nearly finished. He pressed his fingernail between the red and black beads to separate them slightly. He re-attached the thread with a thin timber hitch to reduce bulk. He attached the ostrich herl and made three wraps and then made a small whip finish between the beads.

This midge can be tied with different colored thread bodies: red, black, grey, tan, cream and yellow. The head also can be tied with different colored glass beads. It looked very nice with a silver lined crystal head with the red second bead. Chris said he has also used the gun metal head with a blue second bead and has caught fish. He has not tried it with a green second bead yet.

I revised this recipe because Bob Stafford found a source for the very small size 14 glass beads. "Michael Crosby" WesternFlyfishers@msn.com The very small beads are also available at Bob Marriott's.

Fly Fishing Book Display At The Rancho San Diego Library

San Diego Flyfishers have been donating books to the city and county libraries for a number of years. We do this so we don't need a library of our own and it's a service to the community. Our latest collection will be displayed at the RANCHO SAN DIEGO LIBRARY November 1-21. It will feature our two club member authors - **Jim Tenuto** BLOOD ATONEMENT and **Richard Louv** FLY FISHING FOR SHARKS: AN AMERICAN JOURNEY

RANCHO SAN DIEGO LIBRARY
11555 VIA RANCHO SAN DIEGO
EL CAJON, CA 92010
619 660 5370

M 10-6 T 10-8 W 10-5 TH 10-8 F
10-5 SA 10-5 SU 1-5

Bob Miller



JACK DENNIS HERE ON DECEMBER 3RD AND 4TH

Mark your calendars! Jack Dennis, noted fly tying expert will visit SDFF on December 3rd and 4th. He will be conducting a fly tying class on December 3rd. This is a once in a life time opportunity. Details to follow. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity!



Bear tracks everywhere.



Pat Case with a beautiful silver.



On the road again to the Italio River with cabins in the background.



Dinner is served.



Phil, Don & Jack ready to move.



In Memory of Dr. Dennis Ditmars

On September 26th, my good friend, Dennis, passed away of pancreatic cancer in his home, at age 71. Soon afterwards, a private family memorial service was held, and he was buried at sea. He is survived by his wife, Jane, his two adult sons, Michael and Eric, and his daughter-in-law, Jana.



Ever since he was a small boy, Dennis Ditmars loved to fish. When he wasn't playing basketball or baseball, he would often ride his bicycle with his friends to fish in the San Diego River, usually returning after it became too dark to fish.

To say that Dennis was a passionate fly fisherman is an understatement. He lived to cast to trophy trout and largemouth bass, and was the winner of many fishing tournaments. He once held four International Game Fish Association world records. Three of his records still stand: a 12 pound, 11 ounce bass on 16 pound tippet, a 9 pound, 11 ounce bass on 4 pound tippet, and a 9 pound, 5 ounce bass on 20 pound tippet.

Whatever he set his mind to accomplish, Dennis tried to be the best.

After graduating from the University of California School of Optometry with a Doctor of Optometry degree, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army Medical Corps. A career Army optometrist, his military obligation took him all over the United States, including Japan, and he fished whenever he could. In addition to having an active clinical practice, he enjoyed doing research. A highlight of his career, was being invited to lecture in The Great Hall, at the invitation of the People's Republic of China.

When Dennis was on active duty in the 70's, it was uncommon for an optometrist to be promoted past the rank of major. But, a few individuals who possessed both exceptional administrative and clinical skills, had a chance of further promotion. Dennis was one of those unusually capable officers, and served as a chief optometrist at the Presidio and West Point before retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Before it was popular, he pursued largemouth bass with a fly rod, and was very successful. He loved to sight fish for these hard fighting and often difficult to catch fish, frequently casting for an hour or more to a trophy sized fish. More times than not, he was rewarded for his patience, catching and releasing numerous bass over ten pounds. His latest trophy fish was an 11 pound bass from Lake Cuyamaca that he caught and released in May.

Dennis realized early that the trophy sized bass in San Diego lakes needed to be protected, and promoted the "catch and release" ethic. So that more fish could be caught and released quickly and in better condition, he provided certified scales at both Lake Poway and Dixon Lake.

He was a generous supporter to conservation, and a member of both the San Diego Fly Fishers and the Golden State Fly Fishers, where both he and his wife, Jane, are members.

I will not forget this man, who was my friend. We shared many hours of fly fishing together, sharing flies and stories... and I owe it to him for introducing me to bass fishing with a fly. My life has been better by knowing him, and it is my hope that you, too, will have a best friend like my friend, Dennis Ditmars.

Warren Lew





JACK BENTLEY

**Green River Trip
May 7th-11th 2007**

Make plans now for the annual Green River trip!

Three day fishing trip

Estimated cost with guides: \$1,480

Travel days May 7th and 11th, fish May 8th -11th

Contact David Collins at for further information.



Gobble, Gobble, Gobble...Giving Thanks for all of you who signed-up to be Meeting Hosts for 2007! We filled all the slots.

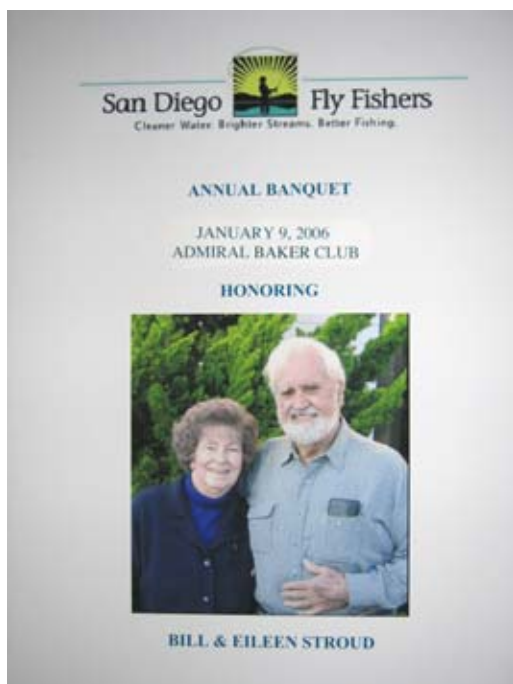
Look for the schedule and set-up hints in your January Finny Facts.

Mona Morebello (aka The Enforcer)



Recipients of the
Stroud Award

2004-Jim Brown
2005-Allen Greenwood



STROUD TACKLE

Complete Fly Shop



● **Cortland**

- Loomis
- Orvis
- Sage
- St. Croix
- Hardy
- Redington
- Fly Tying Materials

San Diego Fly Fishers Headquarters



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

LIFE MEMBERS

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

HONORARY MEMBERS

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

Recipients of the:

GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service
to the flyfishing community

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

Cutoff date for **December FINNY FACTS**
articles---Friday November 10th.

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



**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS
2006 OFFICERS**

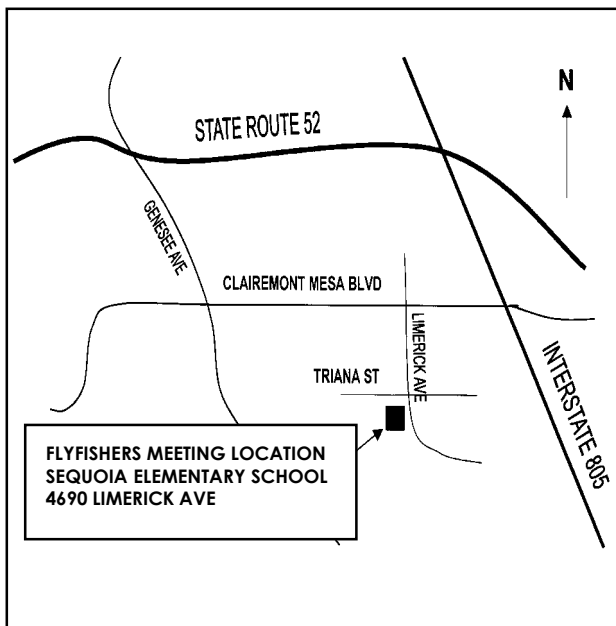
President- Lee McElravy
1st VP- Gary Strawn
2nd VP- Jonathan Hee
Treasurer- Warren Lew
Secretary- Paul Woolery

DIRECTORS

Bruce Campbell
Don Davis
Larry Dirksen
George Gates
Maria Goldman
Lucky Ketcham
Jim Reeg
Al Venton
Shelly Wagner
Louie Zimm

**COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS**

Conservation-
Bruce Campbell
FFF Southwest Council-
Ron Meler
Fly Casting Clinic- Ned
Sewell and John Kasten
Fly Tying Clinic-
Tom Smith
Lucky Ketcham
Membership-
Lucky Ketcham
Monthly Weekend Outings-
Dick Mount



Newsletter CoEditors-
Rose & Roger Yamasaki
5415 Lodi Place, San Diego
92117, 858-274-2712
E-mail:
finnyfacts@gmail.com
Programs- George Gates
Raffles-
Refreshments-
Maria Goldman

Rod Building- Tom Smith
Trips- Open
Video & Library-
John Beckstrand and
Howard Knop
Web Page- David Collins
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
SDFE 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

1457 Morena Boulevard
San Diego, California 92110
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
619.276.4822



**San Diego
Fly Fishers**

*Official Chapter of
Federation of Fly Fishers*

SINCE 1962

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT NO. 40**