

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

MARCH 2005

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 10, No. 3

March Speaker

Steve Beck will present: *Fly Fishing for Wild Trout in the National Parks of California*

Steve Beck, author of “Yosemite Trout Fishing Guide” and “Trout Fishing the John Muir Trail” is the featured speaker for the March 7th meeting. He will be presenting Yosemite, Lassen, Kings Canyon & Sequoia National Parks which offer hundreds of trout-filled lakes, thousands of miles of free-flowing trout streams, and the finest mountain scenery in the world. His presentation highlights the wonderful trout fishing and spectacular beauty in these world-renowned parks. These are great places for a family vacation which includes some fly fishing, as well as

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MEETING NOTICE

Monday, March 7th, 2005

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):

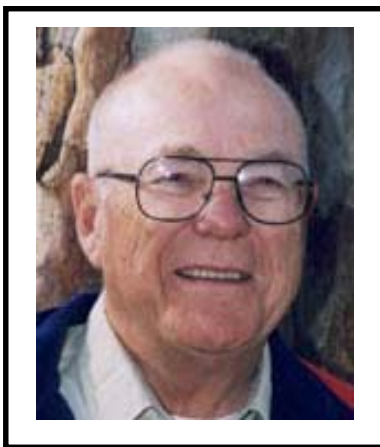
Hal Herritt and

Les Schultz

Thank you, Mona Morebello

Am I Fly Fishing?

Veteran fisherman Ed Velton asks the question



Am I fly fishing when I: use scented plastics – advertised as being tasty to fish – instead of or in addition to match-the-hatch flies; apply smelly attractors to my lure or fly and/or use spinners or other forms of vibrators or noise generators to attract fish? Is fly fishing restricted to using match-the-hatch visual offerings or are lures using sound, touch, taste, and smell as well as sight acceptable? If only match-the-hatch flies are acceptable, then what is an acceptable match-the-hatch fly? Anything pulled through the water follows somewhat of an erratic path. How much can a fly wiggle or

wobble before it becomes a lure? We know that fish will immediately spit out some flies but hold on to others for longer periods of time. Berkley advertises that fish hold on to their soft plastics 18 times longer (how did they determine that?). So, what is acceptable in the area of touch for fly fishing? Are soft lures in or out?

Over the years I’ve migrated so far from conventional fly fishing that, when someone asks me if I fly fish, I wonder. I still use a fly rod, fly line, and reel but when it gets to the terminal gear, anything goes! I hardly ever fish without a light weight, low inertia spinner upstream of my terminal lure or fly. I like the action of the spinner and the motion that it imparts to everything downstream. I fish with 2 lures and one of them is always a soft scented plastic. The other is usually a small gaudy fly made with fabric paint where the hackle and tail and other parts are just as likely glued on as tied on. I’m always putting vile smelly stuff on my lures and flies. I can’t say that all this produces better results but it’s different and I do catch

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Hundreds of Trout Saved by Mother Nature

Fishing Derby Re-Scheduled for February 26th

As I write this on Friday 11 of February, somewhere around 800 trout are swimming around in Lake Chollas thanking Mother Nature and her subtropical rain storm for saving them from the onslaught of 500 eager young anglers. The Annual Star/Pal Chollas Lake event has been cancelled due to rain. Park management wisely decided to re-schedule for Saturday 26 of February. Concerns regarding the stability of eucalyptus trees surrounding the lake after a heavy rain were expressed. Gary Hilbers will be contacting all volunteers for re-scheduling. Before the rain, eager kids were seen fishing for the multitude of trout rising in the lake. One young fellow even caught a "steelhead"! Tales of huge brood stock trout cruising the shoreline were heard. Thanks to the continuing efforts of **Joe Bain**, **Dick Mount**, **Gary Hilbers**, **Paul Woolery** and dozens of other dedicated folks from our club, as well as firemen and law enforcement folks, the kids of urban San Diego will have a wonderful day. This kind of event makes me proud to be a member of our great club! We all enjoyed the talk by Trapper Badovinac on rivers and streams of Western Montana. When he asked how many members had fished the area, I was amazed to see the number of hands raised. It was like a rendezvous of



LOUIE ZIMM

Montana flyfishers. Reminds us how important Montana and the Rocky Mountain West are to this club. Trapper has donated two copies of his book *Fly Fishing Montana's Missouri River* to be raffled off at a future meeting. Closer to home, **Gary Strawn** is looking for volunteers to assist in a census of Hot

Creek in April. This would be a wonderful chance to find out where the big ones live in one of the most technically demanding streams in this area. **Dick Mount** is organizing week-end trips. I've found these trips are a way to gain lots of knowledge and expertise from other members of the club. Don't forget that club members are a top-notch source of information that you won't find on web sites or in magazines. **Jack Bentley's** Green River trip is fast approaching. If you are going, please contact Jack for info on airline arrangements. **Mike Crowley** of San Juan River fame reported to Jack that the San Juan River may well receive good flushing flows this year and may once again be a hot spot to fish. **John Beckstrand** and **Howard Knop** have been serving as the Club's Video Librarians. They remind all of us to remember to return our borrowed tapes when we are finished with them. **Fergie Taylor** is going fishing and needs someone to cover the monthly raffle in May. The lucky volunteer will get to shop Stroud

Tackle for raffle goodies. Sounds like a dream assignment to me! Another opportunity is to man the SDF table at the Day At the Docks on April 24th. We need fly-tiers and any other folks interested in Salt Water Fly fishing. **Jim Reeg** and **Lee McElravy** are leading an effort to find out what the members expect and would like to see in our club. If you have any insight into how we can improve the club or have any "pet peeves", please contact them. The days are now getting longer, San Diego Spring is in the air. Now is the time to join us at Lake Murray on Sunday mornings, to limber up that casting arm. In closing, I would like to say how much I enjoy this club and want to thank you all, the members of the club, for making it happen. 🍷



Bob Wisner talking to Rose Yamasaki at the Annual Flyfishers banquet.



Cal Trout Needs Volunteers

Rob Lusardi, the Cal Trout Manager for the Eastern Sierras has sent the following request for volunteers:

CalTrout will need volunteers on April 6-8th to help DFG electrofish **Hot Creek**, in an effort to assess trout and native populations. It is vital to get a good fish count this spring because DFG did not sample the creek last spring, and 2002 and 2003 numbers were down.

More details will be forwarded in February. Interested parties can get on an email list by contacting

The Fly Fishers of Orange County are planning their 6th annual Fly Fishing University seminar featuring

“A Day with Charles Jardine”

Spend 8 hours with Charles Jardine for \$50 (lunch included).

Saturday, March 19th, 9:00 AM
Concordia University
1530 Concordia West, Irvine
Lecture Hall 204
Reservations requested
Contact Terry Imlay at

FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available.

Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--

Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.

Club Weekend Trip

Stay at Elms Motel in Bishop. Fish Owens River, check in Friday March 4th. Fish the 4th and 5th, check out on Sunday the 6th, fish and come home.

Thank you,
Dick Mount





JACK BENTLEY

**Any Questions?
Call Jack Bentley at**

If anyone wants information on fishing destinations, contact me.

SDFF Trip Schedule for 2005

Green River Trip, May 9th-13th Flight Information Now Confirmed

Monday, May 9th Southwest Airlines, Flt #1703
Depart San Diego 8:40 AM to Phoenix (no plane change)
Arrive Salt Lake City 12:50 PM

Three days of fishing

Friday May 13th Southwest Airlines, Flt #1176
Depart Salt Lake City 1:50 PM to Las Vegas
Depart Las Vegas 4:15 PM, Flt #920 to San Diego
Arrive San Diego 5:20 PM

The Saturday May 14th trip is the same except departure is on Saturday instead of Monday.

IMPORTANT! Everyone will buy his own ticket. If you are traveling on another airline you must be in Salt Lake City by 12:50 PM Monday.

The Green River is our most popular trip. Sign up to reserve your spot. 3 fishing days or 4 fishing days available. Estimated cost of 3 or 4 days of guided fishing:

3-day fishing \$1,280 or 4-day fishing \$1,550.

Walking and fishing is available with no guide, but as the water fluctuates, the boats are more productive. Select either 3-day or 4-day fishing proposed above.

2. Alaska King Salmon, June 24-July 2nd

Nushagak River

Estimated cost: \$3,800

Contact Louie Zimm

3. Sallery Lake Lodge, September 10th-18th

This year's drought was atypical and we are planning to have the lodge to ourselves (Maximum 12 people).

Estimated cost: \$3,200

Contact Louie Zimm





GARY STRAWN

Spring volunteer opportunities to get up to Hot Creek and help conserve this unique fishing venue.

Rob Lusardi, the Cal Trout Manager for the Eastern Sierras has requested volunteers to help with the annual fish count of Hot Creek during on April 6-8th. As it turns out this is not a weekend, as previously announced. DFG is looking for volunteers who are willing to commit to two days. They will be using electro-fishing techniques to count the fish in specified areas of the stream, and I guarantee, if you haven't done this before, you will be amazed at the number of fish in a stream where they so adeptly avoid our offerings.

DFG tries to do a fish count each spring in a continuing effort to assess the wild and native trout populations of the Hot Creek Wild Trout fishery. It is vital to get a good fish count this spring because DFG did not sample the creek last spring, and 2002 and 2003 numbers were down.

Also, the Aguabonita Fly Fishing Club in Ridgecrest is looking for help in refurbishing the Hot Creek information

Volunteer Opportunities to Help Conserve the Hot Creek Wild Trout Fishery

Kiosk. Chuck Newmeyer of Aguabonita Flyfishers will be coordinating volunteer work weekends this summer.

I will have a signup sheet for interested parties at our March meeting or you may contact me at

. You may also want to discuss the Hot Creek Information Kiosk project directly with Chuck Newmeyer of Aguabonita Flyfishers at



Decontamination procedures to prevent the spread of NZMS have been modified.

There is no perfect method for decontaminating waders and wading shoes. Clorox bleach has long been considered the gold standard for killing mud snails; however, it degrades quickly once the bottle is opened or when exposed to some river waters that it is no longer being recommended as a first line defense. Grapefruit Seed Extract (GSE) contains naturally occurring quaternary ammonia compounds, which have proven highly effective against snails. Almost always, GSE kills 100% of the snails 100% of the time yet, in at least two trials, GSE failed to kill any snails. It is assumed that there is a high degree of variability in the amount of molluscicide between batches. Exposure to hot water (120F) quickly kills mud snails, but it is more difficult than might be imagined to sustain 120F long enough to soak into all the nooks and crannies of fishing gear. Hotter temperatures

can soften some of the adhesives used in wader and boot manufacturing. Freezing kills 100% of the snails 100% of the time but of course takes time and a freezer. Desiccation is very effective as long as the mud snails are dried completely for at least four hours in the hot sun or for more than a day at room temperature. Copper sulfate, Quaternary Ammonia Compounds (QAF), Pine Sol, and 409 are among many chemicals being considered for decontaminating wading equipment - to-date none are proven. The California Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are working together to find the "magic bullet". Their trials should reach conclusion by late summer and the results will be published at www.flyline.com as soon as they become available.

Until the trials are completed, the suggested way to rid gear of snails are by freezing or dessication.

The only foolproof method for stopping the spread of the New Zealand Mud Mud snail is to simply stay out of the water. Fishing from shore will greatly decrease the odds of translocating mudsnails, whirling disease, other invasive aquatic biota.



FLY OF THE MONTH

COPPER JOHN



Hook: TMC 5262 or 5263 Size #10 to #18
Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0 - Works best with a thread that will flatten.
Tail: Brown goose or turkey biots
Body: Medium copper wire over a tapered underbody of the wrapping thread.
Thorax: Peacock herl
Legs: Partridge breast feather
Wingcase: Thinskin with a flashabou center strip. Epoxy finish



1. Place a de-barbed hook in the vice after putting a bead on the hook. Wrap 3 or 4 wraps of .020 gauge (small) lead wire around the hook behind the bead. If you used a counter drilled bead you should be able to bush most of the lead into the counter drilled hole. Put a drop of head cement or glue on the shank and wire at this point.

2. Wrap a tapered body with the tying thread. It should taper down from the bead to the bend. After preparing the underbody tie on two biots, one on each side. The tail length should be about one hook gap. Wrap the but ends of the biots to the hook shank up to the bead. Trim the biots.

3. The thread should be hanging behind the bead. Tie in a long piece of copper wire on the bottom side of the hook shank. Wrap the wire to the bottom of the shank back to the bend. Leave the thread hanging at the bend.

4. Start wrapping the copper wire forward in tight wraps. Each wrap is to be snugly against the previous wrap. As you wrap the wire forward it will take the thread forward. Wrap the wire forward to the bead. Secure and trim the wire. You can either cut the thread or break it by rapidly moving it back and forth. Place a drop of glue on the wire at this point.

5. Tie on a single strand of pearl flashabou on top of the hook with the material extending back over the bend. Then tie on a strip of thin skin material, which also extends back towards the bend. Tie these

two pieces down from behind the bead to the rear end of the thorax area. The thorax area will be the front one third of the area between the bead and the bend.

6. Take 2 to 4 strand of peacock herl and tie them on by the tips behind the bead. Marry the herl to the thread forming a thread and peacock herl rope. Wrap this over the thorax area creating a full thorax

7. Select a well marked partridge feather with even tips. Cut the center part of the tip end out. The cut-out should be no more that $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and the length of the cut should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of the thorax.

8. Place the partridge feather you have prepared on top of the thorax with the two sides of the cutout sliding along side of the thorax with a very slight downward slope. The portions of the feather on each side of the thorax are the legs. Hold the legs in place and secure the feather behind the bead. Trim the excess feather.

9. Fold the thin skin back over the thorax and tie it down. Trim the excess. Now pull the flashabou over the thin skin. Tie it down with several wraps of thread and trim the excess. This step completes the thorax and the fly except for the epoxy finish.

10. To finish the fly mix a bit of 5-minute epoxy and place a small amount of the epoxy to the top of the wingcase (thin skin and flashabou).

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Copper John

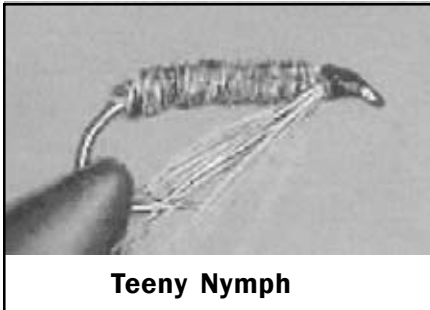
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If you were able to decipher my instructions you now have a well tied Copper John which is a productive fly.

It may sound complicated but it really is rather simple to tie. If you come with your vice and tools to the Thursday evening tying congress we will be happy to demonstrate the tying steps and make sure you leave with a well tied fly. We will also show you some productive modifications. We hope to see you there.

Somehow the sample of the last offering was not included so you will find along with the "Copper John" sample a sample of the "Teeny Nymph" (See below).

Tom Smith



Am I Fly Fishing?

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my share of fish. I also get skunked occasionally. It seems there are days when appealing to more of the fishes' senses scares them instead of attracting them.

I used to see an occasional article that attempted to define fly fishing. The thing that I remember mostly about those articles was that the author spent the first few paragraphs defining fly fishing and then the rest of the article was devoted to explaining why his flies were valid exceptions to the definition. I haven't seen one of those articles lately but then I haven't looked for them. I'm sure I've read that for fly fishing records, catches using scent, aren't acceptable. But I don't remember what constituted scent. Everything smells.

It seems to me that fly fishing and materials have evolved so much that it would be difficult to set boundaries for fly fishing today. So many fly materials are now on the market. Fossil fuel derivatives are all over the place. If you go into a bait and tackle shop you see plastics hanging all over the walls. Most of them look like worms, many

with squashed tails. And most of them smell. While most of these baits are meant for bait casters some are specifically tailored for fly fishers. Berkley puts out a 3" power worm and lots of interesting 1" nymphs and even smaller maggots. In addition, many of the larger plastics have arms, legs, tails and pinchers that can be cut off and trimmed for use with fly fishing gear.

I've seen some of our best fly fishers occasionally use scented baits, with good results. But I suspect many would question their use. I haven't seen many using scent on their flies but the bass fishers claim it's essential for big catches. I think the main hang up with scent is the smell. Yuck. And, of course, you gotta wonder just how far you can go before you are "power baiting."

Nevertheless, If you haven't gone slumming in the tackle shops lately, you might find it interesting; lots of smelly, soft, and gushy stuff. But if you use any of this stuff then you gotta ask yourself the question, "Am I fly fishing?"

Steve Beck

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destination fishing locations often overlooked by those focused on the highly publicized "Blue Ribbon" streams. The Kings Canyon & Sequoia areas which are between Northern and Southern California will be particularly interesting as most of us stop off somewhere else before rather

than travel a little farther to these overlooked area.

Steve has fly fished the Sierra for twenty years from his nearby home in Merced (the "Gateway to Yosemite"). He presented his experience in Yosemite National Park to us a few years ago. I know many of us have fished those little gems he introduced

us to some time back with great pleasure and found memories.

As a freelance writer he has also had articles published in national fishing magazines. Signed copies of his books along with flies he designed for the Sierra will be available.





CALIFORNIA TROUT

FISHERIES / STATE WATER PROJECT-RELATED

Angling group makes plea
CalTrout seeks to protect fish at Piru Creek
Los Angeles Daily News - 2/9/05

By Bill Becher, outdoors writer

An angling group has asked Mike Chrisman, California's secretary for resources, to postpone approval of the environmental study of a controversial plan that would eliminate summer water flows in Piru Creek in drought years, killing the creek's wild trout population.

In a letter to Chrisman sent Monday, CalTrout writes that the proposed plan by the state's Department of Water Resources will destroy a highly popular and rare trout fishing water adjacent to the Los Angeles metropolitan area and cause an embarrassment for the Schwarzenegger Administration. The water agency plans to replace wild trout with stocked fish.

"Piru is the closest place I have to go to fish," said Rob Rubin, a fly-fisherman from Agoura. "I learned to fly fish there."

Rubin said fishing for stocked fish is not the same as pursuing wild trout.

"I leave the stocked fish for families who come up with 12-year-olds so they can all have five fish each," he said. "I go downstream and get into bigger wild fish. It would never be the same without the wild fish."

The state water agency has said the plan is necessary to protect endangered arroyo toads. A spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is responsible for the toads, has said the federal agency is willing to work to produce a water management plan that can help the toads and spare the trout fishery.

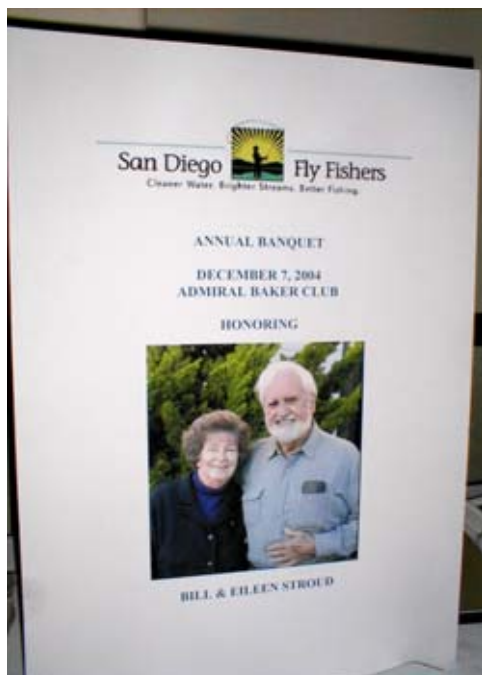
That's what CalTrout manager Jim Edmondson wants. He is asking Chrisman to hold off on the current plan until anglers and federal and state agencies can meet to work out a compromise that would preserve the wild trout and save the arroyo toads.

Sandy Cooney, deputy secretary for communications at Chrisman's office, did not respond to requests for comment on CalTrout's letter. #



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| 1996-Gary Hilbers | 2003-Jim Tenuto |
| 1997-Jack Bentley | 2004-Joe Bain |

Cutoff date for **April FINNY FACTS**
articles---Friday March 11th

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
5415 Lodi Place
San Diego, CA 92117
858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at finnyfacts@lycos.com Thanks!!

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

Lucky Ketcham



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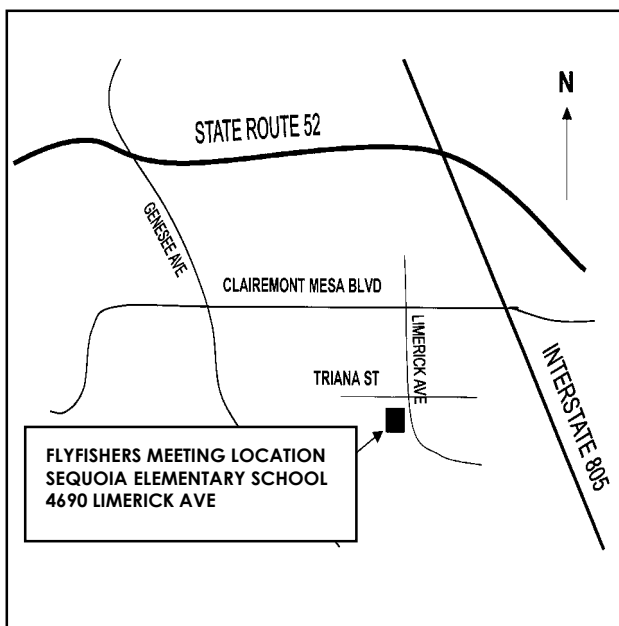
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Meeting Place for Workshops

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.



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