

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

NOVEMBER 2012

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 17, No. 11

## Monthly Meeting

### Klamath River for November Meeting



Join us for a presentation by local fly fishing guru **Peter Piconi**. Peter is a local San Diego guide who provides casting clinics, fly tying classes, surf

schools as well as guiding trips to British Columbia, South America, Baja, Alaska, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, as well as our local San Diego Bay.

Peter will be speaking on fly fishing the Klamath River in Northern California and Oregon.

#### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, Nov 5, 2012  
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)

**Jeff Elliott and  
Paul White**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## HUGE TROUT AND BIG DINOSAURS

Fall Trip to Green River (Flaming Gorge) Utah

By Sam & Mona Morebello

As retired teachers, fall is our favorite time for a "Fishing Field-Trip." Leaving San Diego at day-break, flying to Salt Lake, renting a car and arriving at Flaming Gorge Lodge in time for lunch sure beats the long drive.

SDFP have years of tradition here from the days when our beloved member, **Jack Bentley** arranged trips for 20+ members. We had the good fortune of getting "Lucky Lyle" as our float guide. He is still rowing and getting clients on countless, huge fish at age 70! We boated 25+ fish the first day and 15+ the second. They ranged in size from 15 to 20 inches. During the float, Lyle shared many memories of the SDFP he has guided over the years. When we got to Jack Bentley's favorite spot (Coney Island) Lyle suggested that we name the next fish "The Jack Bentley Fish." As fate would have it, Mona caught a huge (20 inch, 4 pound brown trout) that swims today in Jack's honor.

The water levels were down and running slower (1,300 CFS) however the Green continues to be one of the best tail-water fisheries in North America, featuring Rainbows, Browns, Cutthroats, Cut-bows and Hybrids. Of the three sections, we fished A Section, 7 miles of 15,000



**Mona catches Bentley**

trout per mile. Do the math, that's 105,000 available trout. Odds are in your favor, especially if you have Lyle as a guide. He set up a 12 ft. nymph rig starting with an indicator at the top of a 9ft 4X leader tied to 5X tippet with a #18 Pat Nichols egg pattern. From the egg, he tied 12 inch 6X tippet to the terminal fly, a #20 grey soft hackle. We know we out fished most other boats. Several boats inquired as to what we were using.

Days between floats, we toured Flaming Gorge Dam, Dinosaur National Monument and Carnegie Quarry plus the Vernal, Utah Field House of Natural History Museum. These museums were very interactive and featured the best examples available from the Jurassic Era.

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*"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over staying home."*

Roderick Haig-Brown

As it relates to fly fishing, we do what we do because it is fun. We enjoy it. How we define "fun" and "enjoyment" varies among all of us. For some, they would rather tie flies than fish. Others want to put the float tube on still water. Some yearn for hip boots and Golden Trout on an Eastern Sierra stream. There are those who have reached that point in their fly fishing development they simply want to "pass-it-on" to a newcomer, young or old.

I was reading the Sunday paper late Sunday evening. (Somewhere along the line I misplaced the opportunity to read the Sunday paper on Sunday morning!) Perhaps it was the hour or the recognition Monday morning was fast approaching. Regardless, the effect of the collection of bad news in the paper was overwhelming.

Every day we are surrounded with negativity - war, international affairs, the economy, politics and the weather.

It is not my intention to transpose that negativity to this column. But its existence raises the obvious question. Why do we not make better use of the opportunities this Club provides to have fun?

By the time you read this, we will have had another Club Saturday morning on San Diego Bay. I hope you were there to take advantage of this unique outing. I was. On Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, **Lucky Ketcham** provided an excellent presentation on this past summer's great adventure, beginning at the Green River. Jon Holland has lined-up some great programs for October and November.



For those of you new to the Club, December will present our annual fly tying program and January will bring our Annual Banquet for members, family and friends. This will be a special opportunity to see some folks who might not make it to every monthly meeting and to trade fish stories from 2012!

Any of these opportunities provide more fun than just "staying home." Roderick Haig-Brown was right!

Tight Lines-

*Lee McElravy*





# Annual Bishop Trip

## February 22 and 23, 2013

This is the club's first trip of 2013. It's open to anyone. Be advised we fish in all weather conditions! Dining arrangements will be at Bishop's finest restaurants, including Jacks, La Casita, The Upper Crust and The Back Alley Bowling Bar and Grill. This trip is for serious fishermen interested in fishing, food, fun, making new friends and hanging out with old ones.

Those wishing to join us for fishing without guide service are also welcome!

- **Contact:** Paul Woolery at \_\_\_\_\_ or
- **Guide Service:** provided by Sierra Drifters
- **Guided fishing:** February 22 and 23. If necessary we can add an extra day on the 21st.
- **Other:** All reservations for rooms, dining and guides will be made by Paul Woolery.
- **Travel:** Make your own travel plans. Carpooling is encouraged!



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Olive Seal Scud

<b>Hook:</b>	Daiichi 1150 curved scud hook, size 14 and 16
<b>Thread:</b>	Olive thread size 8/0 or 6/0 on larger sizes.
<b>Shellback:</b>	Pearl Mylar or plastic scud back, (could be clear or colored plastic bag strips.)
<b>Tail/Antennae:</b>	Seal or Angora Goat- cut short
<b>Body/Legs:</b>	Olive dyed seal or Angora goat - cut in half and loop dubbed.
<b>Ribbing:</b>	Clear 5X mono tippet.
<b>Head:</b>	Thread



Mount the curved scud hook in your vise. Attach the thread with a jam knot behind the eye and wrap a tight thread base to just above the barb of the hook. Select 5 or 6 strands of olive Angora goat or seal if you have an old supply from British Columbia or Canada. (You cannot purchase baby seal fur anymore in the US.) Attach it to the bend of the hook for the tail/antennae. Trim it very short. Select a 1/8 wide strip of Pearl Mylar or cut a strip of scud back about 1 inch long. Attach it at the bend of the hook and pull it out of the way to the left. Attach a 4 inch length of 5x mono tippet for the future rib. Pull it to the left and out of the way. Now make a 5 inch long loop of thread at the bend of the hook. You could practice splitting the thread on small patterns. A thread loop is okay. Norb says he aligns the fur fibers as much as possible and cuts them in half before trying to put them in the dubbing loop. The normal hairs are 1.5 inches long and harder to spin if you do not cut them first. Also they are slippery. It works best to add tacky wax to one of the threads and place a very thin layer of fur in the loop. Take a dubbing twister or spinner and attach it to the loop end. Give it a good spin to make the dubbing rope. Try to pick out our comb out the fibers with your bodkin needle before wrapping on the hook. Pull out or thin any sections that are too dense. Now make about 5 wrapping turns of dubbing and tie off behind the eye. Trim excess dubbing rope. Now pull the Mylar or scud back forward to the hook eye. Try to make it fold over the dubbed body, while stroking all the

fibers to point down. Tie in the scud back at the eye with a few wraps of thread. Now wiggle the 5X mono tippet through the long legs as you make 7 or 8 body segments. Tie down the rib just behind the hook eye and trim the excess mono and scud back. Whip finish and trim off the thread. The last step is to brush out the fiber legs with a strip of Velcro or a metal gun cleaning brush and then trim them at an angle. The legs should be longer near the eye of the hook and shorter near the bend. Experiment with the density of the legs to see what works best for you. Norb said the above photos might have more legs than he normally would like. He would thin them with the tip of his scissors.

If you do not have seal or Angora goat you can use many fibers and/furs to make scuds. We use Antron, Rabbit, Opossum, Haretron (rabbit and Antron) and hundreds of custom blends labeled Scud dubbing. Like caddis fly patterns, — you can never have too many scud patterns, if they give you confidence.

Remember Scuds start off as eggs and then just keep shedding their skins to be bigger and bigger animals with the same body shape. Last year, I caught 128 trout over 14 inches on size 28 grey thread scuds. They were just a spindle shape of grey Uni 8/0 thread on a curved scud hook. No legs, no carapace. You can tie the simple scuds with olive, grey threads with variations of light and dark.

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## HUGE TROUT AND BIG DINOSAURS

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We ended our trip in Park City where we wade fished the Provo River. Our guide, Chris Kunkel was very knowledgeable and got us on to some smaller (10 to 18 inch) fish, healthy and fun to catch.



On the Provo

Park City has many wonderful sites in addition to fishing. Most of their ski facilities are open to fall visitors where you can ride the lifts, use a zip line, golf, bike, hike and enjoy the beauty. The 2002 Winter Ski Olympic Venue for Ski Jumping, Luge and Bobsled already has people practicing for the next Olympics in Russia. How about skiing down, wet, synthetic turf, turning several summersaults into a 10 foot deep swimming pool ?

Guide Contacts:

Lyle Waldron can be contacted through Flaming Gorge Resort  
435-889-3773

Chris Kunkel is the Guide/  
Owner of Park City Fly Shop  
435-645-8382 or 435-640-2864



Sam & Lyle

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## Fly of the Month

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Grey Micro Scuds size  
18 to 26

Personally I like the Ray Charles Scud that is popular on the Big Horn River in Montana. "A blind man can catch a trout on the Ray Charles Scud"- is the saying on the river.

This fly is so simple. Without a rib it is called the "Too Simple Ray Charles." Pearl Mylar pulled over a body of grey ostrich herl and tied down with red or grey thread. The hook can be curved or straight standard nymph hooks. I've tied hundreds and hundreds in pink, orange, grey and olive. They are a little less durable than the seal or angora goat scuds; but - They Work ! You can take it to the bank.

Lucky



## Casting Class Statistics

By Lucky Ketcham

One of the things I love best about the San Diego Fly Fishers is its long history of teaching free fly casting lessons at the old Balboa Park Casting Pond and later at our facility on Lake Murray, in La Mesa. Many of you have taken the casting classes and have fond memories of the instructors, the locations and the fishing that followed that "intro-duction to fly fishing." These statistics might be interesting to you and bring back some of those memories.



The "Lead Instructor," **Ned Sewell** keeps a paper notebook to track the names of San Diego residents and visitors that partake in the free fly casting lecture and instruction. I put all the information in a database to look at trends and preserve the history. Before 2009 Ned did not ask for phone numbers or e-mail addresses and created no pressure to join the club. The classes are purely to encourage people to learn and love fly fishing. Ned Sewell has been driving from Vista, every Sunday morning for at least 18 years. His volunteer instructors have been with him most of that time. I should note



that the numbers tracked in this report are only those people that signed up for the 3 hour beginning fly casting lessons. It does not reflect the hundreds of experienced fly casters that return to the Sunday gathering to work on advanced casting techniques. The critical eyes of the casting instructors have helped many people correct casting problems or improve their distance or accuracy. The casting class is a good place for members to gather and share information. I've been going for 12 years and learn something new almost every month.

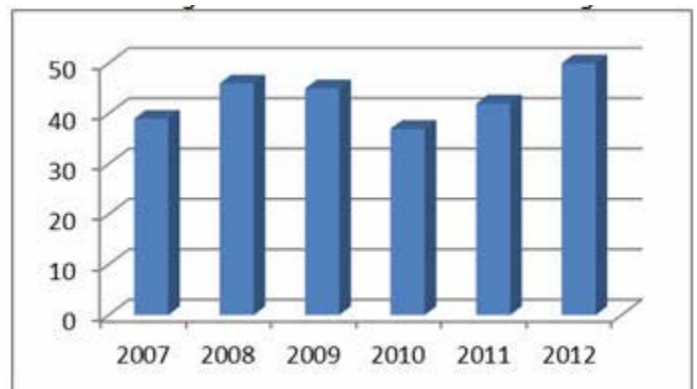
**Running Totals:** Beginning Class Students Taught — 1996 to August 2012 = 3,796

If 12 to 20 existing members of the 360 return almost every week to learn distance casting, double haul, curve casts, Spey casting, mending, shooting line and work on preventing the "dreaded tailing loop," the number of students jumps to **12,800 or 18,900**. (50 weeks/year X 12 members X 18 years = 12,800)

An estimate of the time commitment and volunteer work of Ned Sewell for 18 years (900 Sundays) coordinating casting: 50 weeks X 18 years X 3 hour class X 2 round trip drive to Vista = **4,500 hours**. That is not counting the preparation and cleanup work of maintaining 12 fly rods, lines, reels, tippets, chairs, and signs.

Luckily Ned has had a team of regular instructors. (**John Kasten passed away**), **Ken Armer, Lee Anderson, Marvin Darling, Floyd Lee, Shelley Wagner, Gretchen Yearous** and now assisted by **Don E. Smith, Lucky Ketcham, and Barry Pechersky** (I am probably missing a few names of unofficial casting instructors.)

The first 6 names have been instructors for many of the 18 years – say 15 each. 15 years X 50



**Chart showing the number of Female Casting Students is growing in 2012.**

weeks X 3 hours per week X 5 instructors = 11,250 Volunteer Casting instruction hours.

Combine that with Ned's and you get **15,750 hours of service**

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## Casting Class Statistics

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from the Casting Instructors over 15 to 18 years. The San Diego Fly Fishers offers congratulations and thanks for all those hours of service. I appreciate all of the casting instructors and especially miss having big John Kasten at our Sunday gatherings.

SDFF Casting Instructors average 263 beginning students per year with an average class size of 6.3. About 22.3% of the classes have been women. This year the percentage is 28%. Gretchen, Shelley Wagner and Gordie Zimm continue to influence our membership on Sunday Mornings. We welcome more women to learn the gentle art of Fly Fishing and Fly Tying.

1997 and 1999 were very good years with many classes of 15 to 19. Ned said that one of the missing years (probably 1992) had almost 600 students. ("A River Runs Through It" was showing at the movies in 1992.)

I know many of the father / son or perhaps the mother /son groupings were Boy Scouts working on the new Fly Fishing Merit Badge. Boy Scouts are always welcome to

attend our fly casting and fly tying classes without charge. The number of BSA students increased after our booth at the Boy Scout Jamboree/ Annual Scout Fair at Qualcomm. Thanks to **Al Velton, Warren Lew, (Paul Woolery, Larry Sorensen,**

**Bob Pharaoh, Steve Piper and Lucky Ketcham)** for continuing contact with the BSA over the years. The BSA Fair and Powder Horn Training have become annual educational programs for our volunteers.

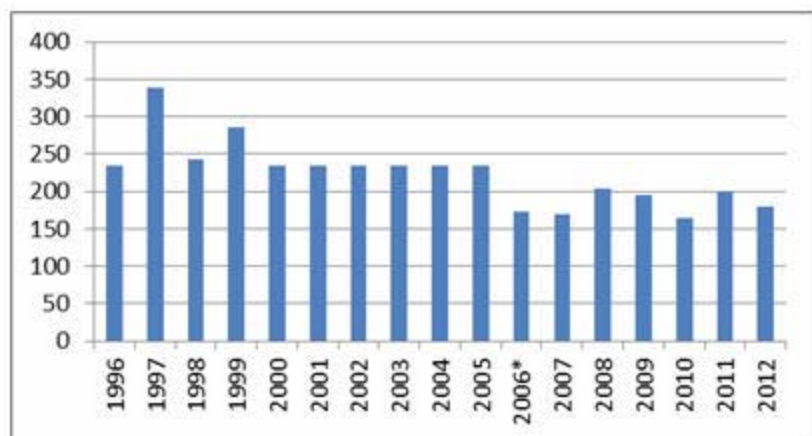
My best estimate is that we re-cruited 48 members in 2006, 2007 and 2008 from the Lake Murray Fly casting lesson. That is almost 10% of the students and a smaller percentage of the new members of the club than I assumed. The importance of the casting class is

better shown when you look at the percentage of new club members that took the class. 48 of the 164 new members from 2005 to 2008= 29.3% — Almost 30% came from their positive experience at the fly casting class.

Our Membership Chair, Paul Woolery did a quick review of the 2010 to 2012 students and found that only 14 new members joined SDFF after or before taking the fly casting classes. 14 of 394 students are only 3.6 percent. (Take heart. I remember – I joined the club 5 or 6 years after taking the classes.)

In 2009 we changed the class registration form to allow the student to provide a phone number or e-mail address if they wanted further information. One of the surprises from the Area Codes on the phone numbers has been how many states and cities are represented by our students. Many of the class members may be students at the local colleges and have cell phones from their home towns. Many summer tourists may be taking the free classes. I remember speaking to

continued on next page



Number of casting students per year.



## Casting Class Statistics

continued from previous page

some of my students and found they were told about the classes from the Hotel activities desk. Ned Sewell and the gang are a "Tourist Attraction." Some of the local hotels promote "Eco Tourism." I think my students this year were referred by Loews Coronado Bay Resort.

The Free Fly Casting Classes continue to be a service to the fly fishing community and not primarily designed to attract members to our club. Under Ned Sewell it continues to be an "Unselfish Service to the Community of Fly Fishers." Gordon Foster would be proud.



### 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.

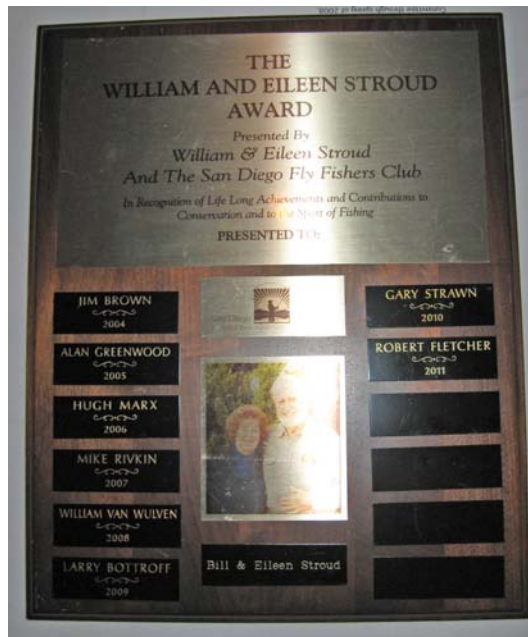
**DIRECTIONS--**Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.





Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**

2004-Jim Brown  
2005-Allen Greenwood  
2006- Hugh Marx  
2007- Mike Rivkin  
2008- Bill Van Wulven  
2009- Larry Bottroff  
2010- Gary Strawn  
2011- Bob Fletcher



## EILEEN STROUD CONSERVATION FUND



Donations are gratefully  
accepted  
Make checks payable to Eileen  
Stroud Conservation Fund

Mail to:  
Stroud Conservation Fund  
1457 Morena Blvd  
San Diego, CA 92110

**All funds collected in Eileen's name will be donated to fresh water fish conservation or research programs in San Diego County.**

### LIFE MEMBERS

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

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Bob Fletcher, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood, Mike Rivkin, Bill Van Wulven, Larry Bottroff, Aubrey Wendling

Cutoff date for **December FINNY FACTS**  
articles---**Friday November 16th**

Send articles to:  
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

Thanks!!

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

Paul Woolery

### Recipients of the: **GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2004-Joe Bain
1992-Bob Camp	2005-Jim Reeg
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2006-John Kasten
1994-Ed Velton	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1995-Bob Wisner	2008-Louie Zimm
1996-Gary Hilbers	2009-Warren Lew
1997-Jack Bentley	2010- Paul Woolery
1998-Gordie Zimm	2011-Gary Strawn
1999-Gretchen Yearous	
2000-Tom Smith	
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki	
2002-Larry Sorensen	
2003-Jim Tenuto	



## SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS 2012 OFFICERS

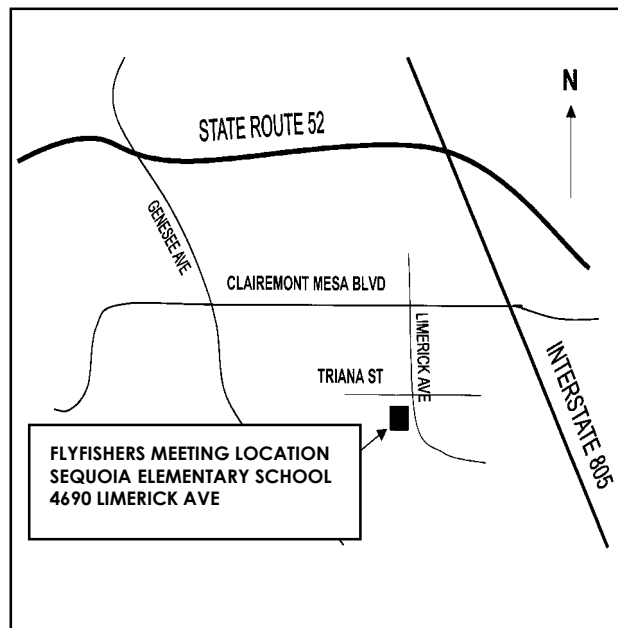
President- Lee McElravy  
Vice Pres.- Larry Sorensen  
Treasurer- Bruce Harris  
Secretary- Bob Stafford

### DIRECTORS

Paul Costa  
 Don Davis  
 Jack Duncan  
 Jonathan Hee  
 Jon Holland  
 Bruce Michael  
 Art Reifman  
 Gary Strawn  
 Jim Tenuto  
 Alan Thompson  
 Lew Walsh  
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Conservation-  
 Gary Strawn  
FFF Southwest Council-  
 Don Davis  
Fly Casting Clinic-  
 Ned Sewell  
Fly Tying Clinic-  
 Lucky Ketcham  
 Bill Hanson  
Membership-  
 Paul Woolery



Local Outings-  
 Larry Sorensen  
Newsletter-  
 Rose & Roger Yamasaki  
E-mail:  
 finnyfacts@gmail.com  
Programs-  
 Jon Holland  
Raffles-  
 Alan Thompson (monthly)  
 Art Reifman (annual)

Refreshments-  
 Maria Goldman  
Rod Building-  
 Jack Duncan  
Travel-  
 David Collins  
Video & Library-  
 Bill Stock  
Web Page-  
 David Collins  
 www.sandiegoflyfishers.com

### Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near 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**  
**10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd. #327**  
**San Diego, CA 92124**

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