

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

JULY 2008

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 13, No. 7

No Meeting for July

Remember that there is **NO MEETING** for the month of July. See you in August.

Bonefishing on Eleuthera



by Tom Lucas

Where is Eleuthera? Eleuthera is a long, skinny island that is S.W. of Grand Bahama in the Caribbean. Its claim to fame is probably the available bonefishing and certainly its turquoise waters are world-famous, like the rest of the islands in the Caribbean. I was lucky to have recently wade-fished there and this is a synopsis of that trip. I fished with Kerry Rider from Colorado and Vince Tobia, our 'host', from Buffalo, NY.

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Fantastic Array of Prizes for 2008 Raffle

This year's prize list one of the best ever



San Diego Fly Fishers President Jonathan Hee kicks off the annual raffle held on June 2nd. Lee McElravy was the Master of Ceremonies.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JULY 2008

WOW! What more can I say about a fantastic Annual Raffle! The club raised over \$6,000 to be earmarked specifically for education and conservation activities. Special thanks go to **Larry Sorensen** who lead the effort this year and put together one of our most successful raffles ever. **Jon Holland** was extremely generous in building and providing our grand prize, a beautiful bamboo fly rod. **Lee McElravy** did a fine job as our MC filling in for **Bill Stroud**. In addition to those already mentioned, Larry would like to thank **Bill Bacon, David Collins, Sam and Mona Morabello, Jim Reeg, Gary Strawn, Bill and Eileen Stroud, Jim Tenuto, Shelly Wagner, Paul Woollery, and Louie and Gordie Zimm**. Thanks to all you who supported our raffle by buying tickets and congratulations to all the winners!

Tight Lines!

Save the Date! - Surf Fishing Clinic

San Diego Fly Fishers will be having a Surf Fishing Clinic on **Saturday, August 2**. To take advantage of the tides, we'll be meeting early at about 7:00 AM at Torrey Pines State Beach. We'll review equipment, reading water and of course catching fish! More details to follow. If you have questions please contact Jon Hee at



JONATHAN HEE

New Member Program

San Diego Fly Fishers is pleased to announce a special \$5.00 discount on dues for new members who join the club from now through the end of the year for the 2008 membership year. In addition, any new members in 2008 will automatically be eligible for a special drawing at our Annual Banquet. We'll be raffling off a rod and reel combo to one of our new members. Current members who refer a new member to the club will be eligible for a special

drawing for a Stroud Tackle gift certificate of \$50.00. To be entered into the referral drawing, the new member must make note of the referral on his or her membership form.

Mentors Wanted

San Diego Fly Fishers is starting a mentorship program and we can use your help! We're looking for some volunteers who are interested in becoming mentors to other SDFP club members who are new to our sport. The role of the mentor will be to help guide another member through some of the learning programs we already have (e.g. Lake Murray fly casting, fly tying, etc.) and to work with this member to put it all together to successfully catch fish. We anticipate this would involve a commitment of 8 – 10 hours over the course of 3 – 6 mos. If you're interested in volunteering or in hearing more please contact Jon Hee at

Please also indicate if you're willing to lead this effort.



A big thank you to Larry Sorensen for heading up this year's annual raffle.



Lee McElravy presided over the annual raffle as Master of Ceremonies.



The Morebellos, Sam and Mona, at the ready pulling tickets and logging in the winners.



Wanted:
The following people are wanted
by the San Diego Fly Fishers Raffle Committee!

You have won one or more prizes. Since we do not have a July meeting, it is your responsibility to pick up your prizes at the August meeting. If you are unable to attend, please designate someone on your behalf. Some of the items are very large and the committee has to transport them back and forth.



Benz, Bob: St. Croix rod
Castelluzzo, Jim: Waist pack, calendar and day planner
Coram, Betty: \$50 gift certificate
Floyd, Sam: GRAND PRIZE...Bamboo rod and reel
Giles, Stan: Orvis Rod
Goldman, Maria: Float tube
Greenwood, Al: Metz #2 sandy dun cape, calendar and day planner
Guymond, Joseph: Regal fly tying vise and a \$25 gift certificate
Hobson, Barbara: Cortland reel
Ketcham, Lucky: Metz #2 ginger cape, calendar & day planner, fly line
Lipley, Willard: Cortand fly rod, reel and line
Lopez, Vonnie: gloves, calendar & day planner
Marino, John: waist pack
Molinare, Al: fly line calendar & day planner
Moon, David: Loomis Rod and a box of flies
Neiger, Ralph: fly tying book
Pharoah, Bob (5 prizes) pliers, hip pack, fly line, Cortland rod & Sage reel and a 4 piece Winston Rod and a Waspi fly tying kit
Richardson, James K.: Fly tying manual and video
Rosen, Len: Fly box
Smith, Don: Fly line, calendar, and day planner
Stuvetraa, Mark: \$50 gift certificate

Congratulations!



Bonefishing on Eleuthera

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Kerry, Vince and I teamed up to do a week of wade fishing along the southern half of Eleuthera, which is about 100 mi. long. We all took up temporary residence in or near Palmetto Point, about half way down the island. Most of our efforts centered on the Savannah Sound area, which is on the south-western or Atlantic side of Eleuthera. Here there were flats that went for a mile or so and which also had an abundance of turtle grass flats abutting the pure white flats near shore. We also visited "Ten Bay", "Deep Creek", "Windermere Island", "Tarpum Bay" and "Rock Sound" for a variety of fish ranging from bones to jacks, blue runners, grouper, barracuda, mutton snapper and pompano.

My first day of fishing started inauspiciously when I took myself to the nearby ocean shore. I was blind-casting to structure when I side-stepped into a hole on the beach and unceremoniously took a saltwater bath! I mean, I was wet to the top of my head....however, I broke nothing and everything dried out in about

15mins. Day 2 saw Kerry, Vince and I meet and fish the Deep Creek flats where I scored my first bonefish on a small "Gotcha" fly in short order. I thought this type of fishing might be easy but after the initial fish, I went fishless for the rest of the long, hot day. Incidentally, one cannot underestimate the benefit of good flats wading boots/shoes as I took wading 'booties', only to return to my

lodgings in the late afternoon with very sore heels. This persisted throughout the week but I got used to it.... somewhat, by week's end.

A boon was the purchase of a "Buff" sock/mask from REI. This device shielded my face from the very potent UV rays and provided a good bit of anti-glare protection beneath my polarized glasses.....making the spotting of cruising or 'mudding' bonefish a lot easier. Bonefish are difficult to see in clear water, as I'm sure many of you already know. Bones blend in so very well that you can and do stumble upon them if they happen to be cruising the sand. When 'rooting' (vs. 'mudding'), the bones will be very tightly bunched and they all seem to be homing in on a particular target food. 'Mudding' can see them in groups or singles, stirring up or 'muddying' the bottom while they grub for crabs or similar

targets in both turtle grass or on the sand flats. Waving tailfins signify both these actions and it sure concentrates your focus when you see them. Small lemon sharks were around most of the time; a key indicator of the presence of bonefish. Barracuda were often present but I had a difficult time seeing them; in fact I found the smaller specimens almost impossible to spot! They are great ambush predators and I heard perilous stories of 8-10lb. versions taking bonefish right out of the hands of fishermen. We didn't lose any of our bones to the 'cudas but it wasn't for their lack of trying! Vince caught a nice 10-12lb. specimen off a point at Deep Creek which put up a really good fight on



Savannah Sound Flats

his 8wt. rod.....with a wire trace attached to the Clouser fly.

Day 3 saw my take of bonefish increase to 5 from two different schools milling about waiting for the tide to rise so they could access the nearby mangrove flats at Deep Creek. I thought I had this type of fishing "dialed in" as I was seeing the fish better and my hook-up rate was about 75%. However, after Day 3, I never caught another bonefish, even after seeing them in ever-

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Bonefishing on Eleuthera

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greater numbers on the pure white flats of Savannah Sound and along the beaches of

Windermere Island (a private island in the sound which can only be accessed by boat/kayak for all non-owner types). I had several hook-ups on the adjacent turtle grass flats but found that type of fishing a bit tedious. You are required to stake out a section of grass and to wait for cruising fish to come near you. However, on the white sand flats I

continually saw bones but most also saw me and that meant no hook-ups. 'Rooting' fish seemed oblivious until you lined them or otherwise spooked them and the result was the same.....rapid bow waves as they departed at great speed. Bonefish are not known as "flats Ferraris" for little reason! Meanwhile, Kerry and Vince (both seasoned bone fishermen) were doing well with pompano and small crevalle jacks, along with the occasional mutton snapper near structure. I seemed to be mesmerized with only bonefish (which I readily admit) and despite my lack of success, I continued to wade the sand flats looking for them. Days 4-7 were a repeat of Day 3 with the venues being the only difference. I saw but I did not conquer!

Food on the island was EXPENSIVE, let me tell you! Breakfast regularly ran \$18-\$22 and dinner

went to \$51 one night....without drinks or dessert! Gas was \$5.50/gal



Vince and Kerry on turtlegrass.

and the rental cars are a story unto themselves! Stanton Cooper (great name, isn't it?) is the main rental man on Eleuthera and you don't sign any papers or show any ID. You just pick up your vehicle and bring it back with the gas gauge at whatever level it was at when you got it. Of course there are a few downsides to all of this. My Ford Explorer had four different tires on it, one of which was bald. I had the SRS airbag, check engine, door ajar and brake warning lights lit on the instrument panel, the shock absorbers were "shot" and the vehicle rattled like a tin can. However, Vince's more modern Honda Passport broke down and Kerry's Suzuki 4wd vehicle was even noisier than mine! The roads were terrible and we all had LHD vehicles which we had to drive on the

left....one was always driving on the "down side" of the road. Still, it was all a great big adventure and no harm came to anyone. One of my 7wt. rods was not so lucky, however. Kerry slammed the rear glass door gate on the tip and that was the end of that rod. Luckily it was on the last day of fishing and late in the day as well. I was ready to hang things up as I had walked a 'country mile' for the sixth day in a row and my feet were yelling "quit" at me.

As a postscript, use BahamasAir with caution. Although a decent airline, they run on "island time", being 30 mins. late on the outbound journey and 40 mins. early leaving on the return.....I almost missed my flight back! I never sat in either of my assigned seats and there was almost a brawl on the plane over one passenger's right to bring two cats onto the plane.

So, all-in-all, a great trip and a definite bonefishing education. One cannot complain about the water but the island is a bit scruffy as are the cars and roads. Bring your money with you!



FLY OF THE MONTH

Brad's Olive Damsel

By Brad Blancett, Fly Tying Demonstration at Marriott's Fly Fishing Fair
3/29/2008, notes and photos by Lucky Ketcham, SDFF

Hook: TMC 200R or Daiichi 1270 size 12
Thread: Olive 6/0 or 8/0
Eyes: Black plastic mono, from Spirit River, small
Tail: Olive Marabou
Flash: Pearl Krystal flash in the tail - optional.
Body: Wapsi Pearl Chenille, fine or small olive with flash.
Legs: Olive Emu feather
Back: Olive Marabou pulled over legs.



Brad recommends fishing this light weight damsel as an attractor on a vertical line under and indicator. Fish it near the weed beds at Crowley and other lakes when damselfly are emerging. Damsel nymphs or "naiads" actively swim horizontally to the rushes and grasses to emerge. He ties a small metal ring to the leader and then ties the damsel as a top fly on an 8 to 12 inch dropper. A Zebra midge is attached to a second 4X or 5X leader 18 to 20 inches below the metal ring. Fish the midge within 6 inches of the bottom. The Emu fibers make visible legs that still have movement.

Pinch the barb and mount the long nymph hook in the vise. Attach the thread at the eye and wrap a tight thread base to the bend and back to a position 3 hook eyes back. Attach a set of black mono eyes on the top of the hook shank with figure-8 wraps. Apply a little super glue or head cement to the thread wraps of the eyes. Wrap the thread to a point above the barb at the bend in the hook. Attach a two inch section of fine Wapsi Pearl /Olive Chenille. Select a small olive Emu feather and attach it to the same point as the chenille. Let both hang. Select a small bundle of olive marabou. Damsels have very thin flexible abdomens, so keep it sparse with 15 to 20 fibers. Size the tail to be almost a hook shank and tie it

down at the bend of the hook. Pull the butts to the rear and out of the way. If you have a "material tamer - cord with weight" use it to wrap and temporarily control the marabou. Attach the chenille to a hackle pliers and wrap a body to the rear of the eyes. Tie off and trim excess. Palmer wrap the Emu hackle forward to the rear of eyes, secure and trim excess. Cut some of the top emu fibers on top of the body, pull down others to the sides and bottom. Unwrap the material tamer, freeing the olive marabou. Pull the marabou forward over the body and legs and tie off in front of the eyes. Trim the excess marabou and then finish by covering the butts with nice wraps of thread. Whip finish and apply head cement the thread head. He normally does not add Krystalflash to the tail, but will have some patterns with flash for off colored water. Some fish like the flash, some educated fish will reject the fly if it sparkles.

Discussion with Brad:

Kermin Lake is a walk in or hike in lake in the Bridgeport area. It is a 5 mile hike to this good brook trout lake. Brad says it is worth the trip. You can use a mountain bike to carry in your float tube, or use shoulder straps on a light float tube. You are also able to fish from shore.

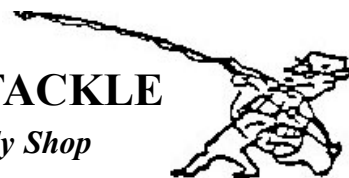


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Cutoff date for **August FINNY FACTS**
 articles---Friday July 11th.

Send articles to:
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 5415 Lodi Place
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 858-274-2712.

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

Send change of address information,signup for
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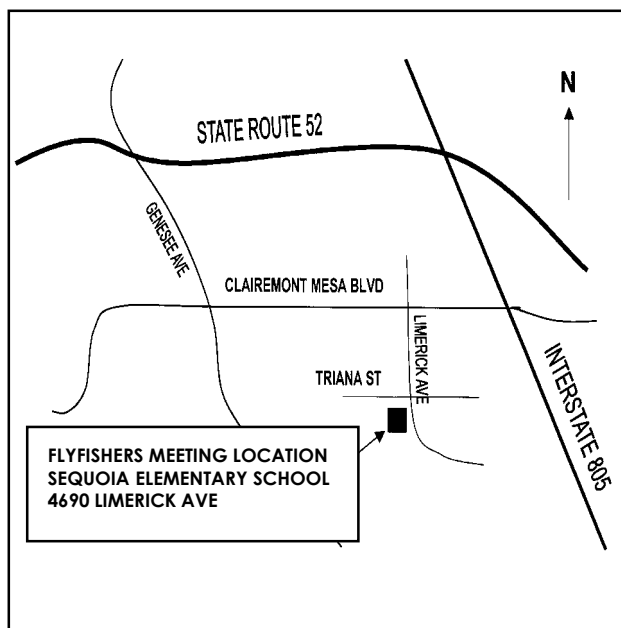
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Meeting Place for Workshops

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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