

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

OCTOBER 2008

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 13, No. 10

October Meeting

Join Us For a Meeting with an Expert-- Dr. Nick Curcione

In addition to his former 35-year career as a university professor, Nick is an internationally recognized outdoor writer, instructor, lecturer and tackle consultant with more than 40 years of angling experience.

Though extremely well versed in all phases of the sport, Nick is especially noted for his casting expertise and instructional clinics. He is one of the country's leading authorities on sinking lines and shooting heads and his knowledge of knots and rigging are held in high regard. His casting demon-

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MEETING NOTICE

Monday, October 6, 2008
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)

**Jason Graham and
Jim Richardson**

Thank You, Mona Morebello

Barrett Lake

A Fish Story by Lucky Ketcham--Photos by Warren Lew

Gretchen Yearous, Warren Lew and I fished Barrett Lake on Saturday, Sept 13th. The fishing was fairly slow for bass on a fly but we managed to catch a few after we found they were in deeper water. Gretchen showed us how it was done again catching 10 or 12 bass and 13 bluegills. I chipped in with 2 bass and 15 bluegills. Warren did not have a full sinking line and could not get his flies deep enough for most of the morning. He started catching up to Gretchen on the evening bite with 4 bass and two or three blue gill. Black Orvis Buggers with green crystal flash and micro rubber hackle bodies were the secret weapon for Gretchen and Lew. I caught a 19 inch bass on a four inch long black blood leech. It is tied weighted with a large red glass bead, extra lead underbody, black mohair yarn, two marabou blood feathers and accented with red Flash-a-bou, size 6 streamer hook.

Most of the blue gill came to our old favorite Tom Smith, Brim Fly patterns, Cream or white body with orange/black variegated top or brown



top, white rubber legs.

Gretchen started out using a thin black class III full sink line with the rubber legged - Brim Fly. Warren and I started with Intermediate sink lines and larger white shad flies or black leeches. Gretchen had 5 fish before 8 AM and before Warren and I decided we better start fishing for the bluegills too. Barrett Lake has some nice large bluegills that make you think you have a bass on the end of the line.

It was a long day on the water, but it seemed to go by faster than usual. I woke up at 4 AM to meet Gretchen and Warren at 4:45, and the lake at 5:30. We started fishing at 7 AM and were off the water at 6:45, on the road

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: OCTOBER 2008

For those of you who enjoy saltwater fishing or are interested in giving it a try we are having a phenomenal offshore and inshore season this year. Scott Leon, our speaker last month, gave us a great overview of the terrific action going on in our local waters. He regaled us about days in which fly fishermen are bringing in fish after fish just a short boat ride off our coast. He's catching albacore, yellowfin tuna, dorado, calico bass, yellowtail and even white sea bass on the fly right now. As Scott said, we don't always have years like this so take advantage of it while you can! We have a world class fishery right outside our door.

We were fortunate to have a special guest at our meeting for Scott's presentation, Nick Curcione, a world-recognized saltwater angler. Nick is often seen demonstrating and lecturing at the national fly fishing shows and has written numerous books on saltwater fly fishing. Nick recently relocated to San Diego. It's been a long time since Nick has spoken at our club we hope to welcome him back!

Speaking of saltwater fishing, many thanks go **Nicholas Pratt** and **Louie Zimm** who took your president on an offshore fly fishing trip. Louie is an excellent captain and together we caught 6 tuna – some albacore and yellowfin. Your president also man-

aged a long distance release on one of the biggest yellowfins that jumped on his fly. Nicholas purchased the trip as part of our annual raffle. Thanks

Nicholas and thank you Louie for your donation of the trip!



JONATHAN HEE

Of course saltwater fishing isn't the only game out there. A number of club members including members **Bob Stafford, Wayne Allen, Art Reifman, Lee McElravy, Paul Woolery, Bob Pharoah,**

Bob Wozniak, Bob McKay, Rich Strobel, Jon Holland and Gary Hilbers were on a fly fishing trip to Mammoth Lakes. Read more about it elsewhere in this month's Finny Facts.

National Hunting and Fishing Day was on September 27th this year at Lake Murray. San Diego Fly Fishers was present with a booth and also gave fly casting demonstrations. The new organizing committee has worked hard to restore this event to its prior glory and San Diego Fly Fishers was happy to be a part of this. In addition to our club, over 30 participating organizations were also there.

I would also like to welcome the following new members to San Diego Fly Fishers: **Duane "Bernie" Bernard, Christopher and Mary Birkett, Mark Hedderson, Michael May, Ronald Nicholas, Michael Symons and John Stacy.**

Tight Lines!

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.

Membership Drive Begins in October

The San Diego Fly Fishers Membership Drive for 2009 starts October 1st, 2008. New and existing members may print the renewal application from the club website and send it to Membership Chairman Lucky Ketcham or to Stroud Tackle. This year Lucky will be sending the regular billings out in October and again in January.

If anyone has questions about their membership they may call Lucky at . Members that lapsed in 2008 may rejoin in 2009 without penalty.

We will make it as easy as possible.
Lucky



Barrett Lake

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at 7:15. After dinner I arrived home at 9:20 PM, tired but appreciative of the nice day of fishing and good company. I enjoyed fishing with Warren and Gretchen. We think the full moon and the fall turnover of the water column had something to do with the slower fishing. Some of the conventional spinner baits and jerk bait anglers still caught their 21 bass per day. The morning was cool and overcast and the sunny afternoon was not too hot.



It was frustrating not catching more bass on a fly, but the ones that I did catch were great. One of the most memorable experiences was watching a 13 inch bass trying to catch two orange dragon flies hovering above a wood stickup. I noticed the bass jump completely out of the water three times trying to catch those dragon flies. He kept missing since the dragon fly is one of the few insects that can fly backwards in a split second. Also they have those giant compound eyes that can see in all directions. The bass has a hard time catching them. I knew the fish must be hungry so I decided to make a cast near the stump. I had a Stayner Ducktail minnow with an orange/gold

body almost the same color as the dragon flies. I made one cast off target and then followed with a cast on the shady side of the stump. Almost as soon as the fly hit the water, the bass was on. I enjoyed the runs and movements to keep out of the stick ups. Just as I was on the radio to call Warren for a photo opportunity, the fish jumped and threw the barbless hook. I think I liked sight fishing and planning the cast to this bass almost as much as I did fighting the larger 19 inch bass.

Warren notes that he will definitely bring a heavier full sink line on his next trip to Barrett. The clear intermediate sinking line is fairly fat and did not sink as well or as fast as he wanted. I used a light 5 wt - 12 foot sink tip line for the first few hours. It also did not bring the lighter Brim flies down to the 15 foot holding depths fast enough. Warren and I thought the fish would be in shallow water near the weed line and the better presentation by the intermediate line would be in our favor. We targeted bass with larger streamers. Warren had hoped to use a small white plastic shad jig head as his secret weapon. The Wal-Mart he checked did not have any of the small bait that worked so well for us last year. Gretchen started out with small flies and the full sink line for either bass or bluegill. The larger splash of the heavy line entering the water did not impact the fish holding in water 10 to 15 feet deep. We fished from three float tubes and only used the aluminum motor boat for transport to various arms, points and bays. I love the rocky outcroppings and points,

but the wood stickups probably produced the most bass.

I always have a hard time sleeping before fishing trips like this, just trying to decide what type of line and flies will work for the conditions. On the positive side, I slept very well after the long day on the water, contented that I took another memorable trip to Barrett.

You know "I am not competitive" and I don't mind having my butt kicked by Gretchen, — Again!

Lucky Ketcham



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size 8 to 12**

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ment, available from one of
the instructors.**



Mammoth Trip 2008 is Now History

Art Reifman, Bob McKay, Bob Pharoah, Bob Stafford, Bob Wozniak, Gary Hilbers, Jon Holland, Lee McElravy, Paul Woolery, Rich Strobel and Wayne Allen arrived in Mammoth on September 7, 2008 for a week of fishing and camaraderie. Bob Stafford lead a group into the Tioga Pass area, topping 10,000 feet in altitude, for a little stream fishing, historical sightseeing and fantastic views. Jon Holland claimed the largest fish of the trip with a 24 inch Rainbow trout from Hot Creek. Gary Hilbers had to "run" back to the truck to get the forgotten landing net. Jon was able to hold on until Gary returned and land the trout. Bob Pharoah caught a 21 inch Rainbow in Lake George. Rich Strobel had "a day to remember", catching Fifty (50) fish on Lake George. Rich loves fishing the "Seal Buggers" he ties. Wayne Allen become the first recipient of our new MENTOR program. Bob McKay took him fishing on the Upper Owens, demonstrated the proper line configuration and presentation of a Nymph. Wayne landed 17 fish while Bob landed 37.



Suggested Fly List for Crowley Lake and Eastern Sierras, September
2008 Mammoth Trip by Lucky Ketcham, John Beckstand and Wayne Allen
Bold type indicates a highly recommended pattern.

Lake Crowley patterns

Punk Perch (Tom Loe's Perch)	12, 14
Hornbergs, yellow and natural	12, 14
Staynor Ducktail (a flat wing Hornberg)	12, 14
Spitz Perch	12, 14
Loeberg - (a hornberg perch tied with green guinea hen)	12, 14
All Purpose Nymph - black	12, 14
Barbie Doll Special	12, 14
Sheep Creek Special	12, 14
Illegal Fly	14, 12
Zebra Midges, larvae and pupae, black with gold rib	18
Tiger Midges, Pearl Krystal flash rib	18
Brassie	18, 20

Poly Yarn Float Indicator, adjustable.

Sotcher Lake / Lundy/ Ellory

Cinnamon Twin Lakes Special	8 to 12
Olive Matukas	8 to 12

Paul's Special

Angoran Damsels fish near reeds in AM 14

Antron Damsel - Ken Hanley's	14
Hot Chocolate - woolly worm	8 to 12
Bead head olive woolly worm	8 to 12
Bead head Prince	14, 12

East Walker - tail water river

Zebra Midges 18, 20

Tiger Midges 18, 20

Stimulator - yellow and orange 12, 10

Butt Ugly Hopper 14

Lee Vining Streams for Brook trout

Horshoe Meadows for Golden trout	
Western Coachman - dry	14
Royal Coachman - dry	14
Butt Ugly Hopper, size 14	14
Elk Hair Caddis - size 16 to 12	16 to 12

Hot Creek

Blue Wing Olives 18, 20, 22

Dark Caddis 18

Killer Caddis 18

Elk Hair Caddis 18, 16

Midges 18, 20, 22



Kirmin Lake, Bridgeport, CA



Brad Blancett recommended that if I like big brook trout, I should try Kirman Lake, just north of Bridgeport. Kirmin Lake is a walk in or hike in lake. 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. - Kirman has special regulations for angling. You must use artificial flies or lures only with barbless hooks, there's a 2 fish limit and a 16 inch minimum. Kirman is loaded with both Brookies and Cutthroat. The Brookies have been averaging around 2.5 to 3 lbs the last few years, though in the past we've weighed Brookies up to almost 7 lbs. The Cutts seem to run anywhere from 12 inches to sometimes as much as 26 or 28 inches. All of the fish in Kirman are very beautiful specimens, due in large part to the great amount of food (scud, damselfly, etc.) that grow in the lake. -It looks and fishes like Heenan Lake, except you have to hike to it. — Lucky Ketcham

Paul Britting adds more details about Kirman Lake.

Kirman Lake (pronounced by the locals as Carmen Lake) is about seventeen miles north of Bridgeport, California. You turn left on the Sonora Pass highway heading towards Pickle Meadows where the U.S. Marine Corps has its Mountain Warfare Training Center. I have fished this lake several times and the Brookies there are very large. It is an uphill hike of about five miles and I suppose to you youngsters it is worth while. However I prefer to go there in a U.S. Marine Corps Humvee. The Marine Corps Sergeant Major of the training center has the combinations to the gates on the dirt road



leading to the lake. The Marines keep the roads plowed and Fish and Game has given them the combinations and good wishes. Fish and Game also stocks a private pond on the Marine Training Center with some very nice Rainbows

Semper Fi, Paul Britting

<http://www.kenssport.com/default.aspx?p=9>

See Kens Sporting Goods for fishing reports and more photos.

Dr Nick Curcione

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strations with specialty lines utilizing both single and double-handed rods and the knots and rigging programs have been very popular with fly fishing audiences.

Nick has been on the sport fishing show circuit for over 30-years where he has been a featured attraction for productions like the International Sportsmen Expositions, The Great Western Fishing and Hunting Shows, Marriott's Fly Fishing Fairs, and the Shallow Water Expositions.

His fishing travels have taken him to a variety of locales and include all the coastal waters of the continental US, Alaska, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, New Guinea and the South Pacific.

His writing credits have been extensive with numerous articles in local, national and international publications. Since its inception, he has been on the editorial staff of Fly Fishing Saltwaters magazine and has authored three fly fishing books, *The Orvis Guide to Saltwater Fly Fishing*, *Baja On The Fly*, and *Tug-O-War; A Fly Fishers Game*. Over the years Nick has served as a consultant for a number of major tackle manufacturers and has recently joined the Temple Fork Outfitters advisory staff.

Nick will be conducting a "hands-on" seminar on tackle, knots and rigging.

You do not want to miss this program!



FLY OF THE MONTH

Bird's Nest

The bird's nest was designed by Cal Bird, in 1959 for catching Truckee River trout. This is one of SDF member, John Kasten's favorite nymphs on all western trout rivers, lakes and streams. He was taught the pattern by Cal Bird many years ago. Fish it dead drift in the film or along the bottom with a split shot to mimic a nymph. It can be fished on the swing to imitate an ascending caddis pupa or stripped along the edges of weed beds to simulate a swimming nymph or baitfish. It is deadly when treated with Tite Lines dry fly powder or Orvis' Ultra Float to make it repel water and hold air bubbles. These bubbles look very much like a subsurface ovipositing caddis.

HOOK: TMC 3761, size 10 and 12 are John Kasten's favorites, (can be 14 and 16 for caddis) Daiichi 1710 - heavy wire 1X or 2X long nymph hooks.

THREAD: Match body, 8/0 or 6/0

WEIGHT: Lead wire .020 or the diameter of the hook shank

TAIL: Wood duck (or bronze mallard)

RIB: Gold wire (or copper)

ABDOMEN: Brown, gray or green buggy looking Australian opossum (Black is good.)

LEGS: Wood duck or (well marked mallard or teal dyed bronze)

THORAX: Same as abdomen



1. If you want to add lead, do so and secure the lead under thread; if not, start the thread two-thirds up the shank, tie in a section of fibers as tail (long; about three-quarter shank length). Trim off the fibers' butts. Tie in gold wire at the bend.

2. Dub a slightly tapered abdomen up two-thirds of the shank. Rib the abdomen with five or six turns of the copper wire. Secure the wire's end with thread and then add a half hitch.

3. If the fibers of your teal or mallard feather aren't squared at their tips, draw them to whatever angle to the stem will square them. Strip off, or snip off, the section. Hold the section flat over the hook shank for sizing. The tips should reach to the far edge of the hook's bend.

4. With your thumb and finger, roll the fibers around the shank and then press the fibers tight to the abdomen. Take a loose turn of thread around the fibers, and then pull the thread tight. Add a few tight thread turns. Trim the fibers' butts.

5. Build a thorax over the front third of the shank. Build and complete a thread head and whip finish to complete the Bird's Nest.

Credits: From The Art of Tying the Nymph, Fly Anglers On Line

I picked this pattern for the FOM to honor John Kasten and the Wednesday Bunch. We were having a discussion at Lake Murray on the original Cal Bird recipe. Cal tied the hackle in several ways. The above method may be the easiest way to get the leg length correct. I often tie the soft hackle in by the tip and make 1.5 to two wraps of hackle. The second method involves selecting mallard or wood duck flank of the proper size. Like many soft hackle patterns, you do not want the legs to be too long or too full. Make a few thread wraps over the wood duck quill to lay the legs to the rear and then add the thorax as above. A bead head can be added for more weight and variation. The dry fly powder is a new trick to make the fly even better than the original.



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

Send change of address information,signup for
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Lucky Ketcham
 3510 Gayle Street
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| 1999-Gretchen Yearous | |



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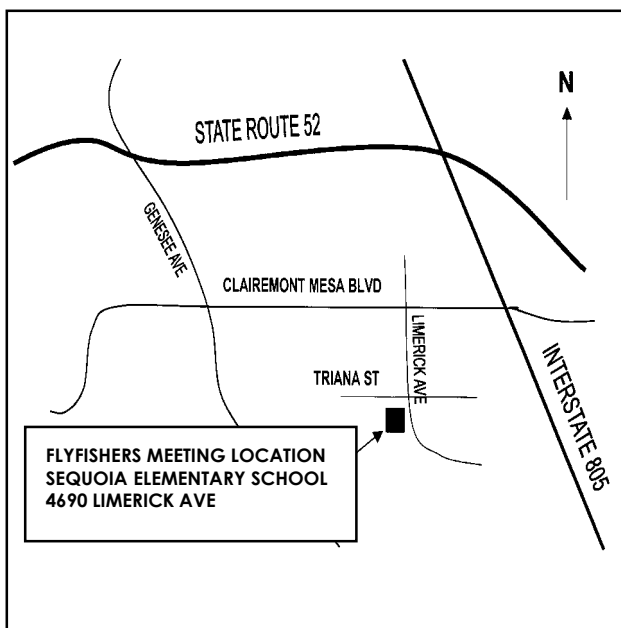
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Meeting Place for Workshops

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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