

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

APRIL 2013

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 18, No. 04

Monthly Meeting

Fly Fishing Southern California's Lakes and Streams

Rick Bean will be our speaker for the April meeting. Rick is a guide, teacher, outdoor writer on not only fly fishing but also hunting for big game and upland birds, and is an author of many books including *Fly Fishing Southern California's Lakes & Streams* and *Fly-Fishing for Bass in the West*.

Rick became involved in the Sespe Flyfishers in 1989 as a member and as a board member. He is a guide for the waters in and around Ventura County.

He has also fished the waters of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Notice

Just a reminder that our annual membership renewal period is coming to a close. April 30, 2013 is the last day to renew your membership.

You may renew by returning the remittance envelope mailed to you in October or mailing a check to:

**San Diego Fly Fishers
Attn: Membership**

Better yet, come to the April meeting and stop by the membership table and renew in person.

In Memorium



**Lifetime San Diego Fly
Fisher Member
John Gauld
passed away on
March 18, 2013**

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, April 1, 2013
7:30 PM

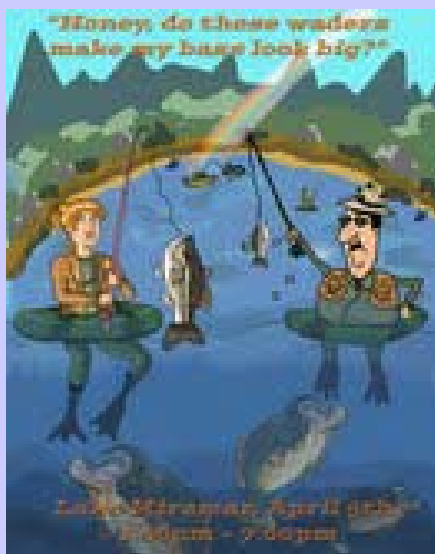
Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Avenue
(See map on back page)

REMINDER

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

**Barry Pechersky
and Don Smith**

Thank You from Lew Walsh



An inter-club event hosted by San Diego Fly Fishers

April 5, 2013
Lake Miramar
2:00pm - 7:00pm

See details on page 3

Our Annual Fundraiser has a chairman. Which is really good, because we always had a chair...but not someone to sit in it. **Jack Duncan** has taken a big breath and jumped into the breach. Not to worry, Mr. D., you will be amply supported. The letters to vendors went out and a group of volunteers, bribed with food, whisky and cigars met to stuff envelopes with letters and tickets. By the time you read this Jack and I certainly hope that you've returned your **FIRST** set of tickets.

Art Reifman, last year's record-breaking chairman, is sitting on the sideline ready to help Jack as are a number of other club members.

Other than buying tickets, here is how you can help. Do you have any new or gently used fly-fishing items that need a new home? A couple of years back I won a Loon chest pack, fully kitted out with fly dressing, hemostats, snip and fly boxes. Dang thing even has a water bottle. It also still has the label. And it is going to be the first donated item that delivered to Jack. Bring these items to our upcoming meetings or email us to arrange for a pick-up or drop 'em by Stroud Tackle.

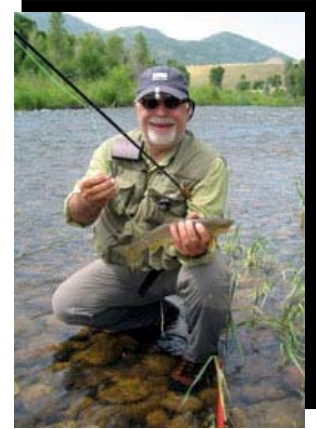
The Czar of the Feather Benders, **Lucky Ketcham**, has also put out the word that he needs flies. Lots of flies. We normally buy quite a few fly boxes to place on the table

for the fundraiser. They are much better received when they are filled with flies. Lucky said "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore..." Well, it was something like that.

We had two new members join us at the last meeting, bringing our total up to seven for the year. We have a goal of 40 new members.

And a big round of applause for last month's speaker, **Guy Jeans, Kern River Fly Fishing, (www.kernriverflyfishing.com.)** Guy's program covered his turf — Southern Sierra, Sequoia National Forest, Golden Trout Wilderness, Domeland Wilderness and South Sierra Wilderness — as well as the different species he fishes for and all manner of tips regarding equipment, terminal tackle, weather conditions, etc. An informative fast-paced program.

For those of you who weren't at the meeting, I share sad news from our friend **Larz Sorensen**. He lost both his mother and his wife on the same day. Those of us who count this patriot as our dear friend have already shared condolences with him, and I encourage those of you who know Larz to express yours as well. As always, he is a stoic individual and has been more focused on helping his three



daughters and grandchildren than he is on himself.

And don't forget the bass tournament, arranged, sponsored, and organized by **Bruce Michael**. With the brilliant name, *Do These Waders Make My Bass Look Too Big*, this is a friendly competition between San Diego Fly Fishers and Golden State Fly Casters. The tournament is on **Friday, April 5th**. The details are on our website. Now that I'm looking, those waders do make your bass look too big. 🐟

Stroud Tackle

Rick Vorst, Mgr
1457 Morena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110

619-276-4822
info@stroudtackle.com

Thurs. 10am-4pm
Fri. 10am-4pm
Sat. 10am-4pm



Honey, do these waders make my bass look big?

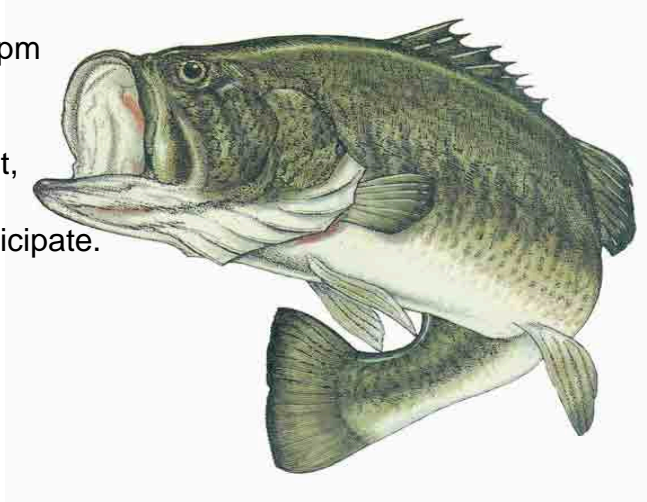
An inter-club event hosted by San Diego Fly Fishers

April 5, 2013 Lake Miramar 2:00pm – 7:00pm

Registration begins @ 1:00pm

\$10 cash contribution covers daily lake permit, post-fishing food and awards.

SDFF general release must be signed to participate.



Prizes for:

- most seasoned participant
- youngest participant
- Biggest bass (based on length)*
- top 3 female with most points
- top 3 male with most points

(1pt for each bass up to 11.99", 2pts for each bass 12" – 14.99", 5 pts for each bass over 15")

Prizes include: TFO fly rods, Chest/hip packs, Gear bags, dozens of flies from San Diego's finest tiers.

* Prize for documented biggest bass: Simms fleece and hat monogrammed with your **club emblem** and **Big Bass 2013** along with bragging rights til April 2014. While SDFF and or GSF membership is encouraged, but not mandatory to participate, the winner of the Biggest Bass must be a current paid member in good standing of either club at start of event. Membership applications for both clubs will be available at registration.

2:00 - Unleash the Tubers

2:15 - Pontoons

2:30 - 'Yaks and trolling motor assisted 'toons

Gotta work, don't worry, the bass don't get really active til after 5:00.

All watercraft must be off the water by 7:00. Results must be registered by 7:15.

Pizza 7:15 - 7:30

Awards presentation – 7:30

Lake gates close at 8pm.

Fly rods and artificial flies only - No scented plastics/baits/lures/worms (San Juan worm okay)/gas powered vessels/fish finders.

Event will be rescheduled due to unsafe weather conditions; please consult your club web site for updates

Current DFW fishing permit required and San Diego lake rules apply

See - <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/recreation/fishbulletin.shtml>

Members Fishing Reports

Lucky Ketcham reports:

About 8 Golden State Flyfishers/ San Diego Fly Fishers "combo" members fished San Diego Bay at the Glorietta Bay boat ramp again this morning (March 13th). It was a little slow if you fished big 5 inch flies on 20 pound leader. I only caught 3 bass from 6:30 until 10:30.

Bob Pharoah hooked 17 and landed 14. Mostly bass and yellow-fin croaker. **Barry Perchersky** was catching big mackerel two at a time. They put a big bend in his 6 wt soft rod. **Tom Lucas** seemed to be hooked up regularly on the small bass. **Norb Spitzer, Charlie Wright, Lee Anderson** and two unknown men from Orange County Fly Casters all caught a few bass. Charlie Wright learned that even small halibut have sharp teeth. They are not passive when you are removing a hook and will actively snap at you.

I tried my 15 ft of LC13 lead core rig in 24 to 28 ft deep water. It got the big smelt down to the bottom, but not many fish wanted to play. I found if you continually clip off flies and tie new loop knots on tapered leader — you are eventually fishing with 25 to 30 pound line and not getting good action on the fly. At least that is my excuse for today's poor production. The bite seemed to die at 9:30. Bob fished the Golf Course side, eel grass and found the bass were over there and not at the Navy fuel docks.

Most of the 8 friends caught spotted bay bass on the small red, or red and white clousers and Rootbeer/Orange Kim's Z Worms.


Small size 6 minnows and crab/shrimp seem to be the ticket. The bass did not like my yellow marabou jig, and chartreuse and white did nothing. My big smelt pattern caught 3. It is amazing that a 6 inch bass will attack a 5 inch streamer.

Monday I caught two nice spotted bay bass in Mission Bay at the Crown Point Ingraham Street Bridge.

I fished my big 5 or 6 inch lineside Smelt pattern in the 25' deep water in front of and under the bridge. I caught the first 15 inch bass within 10 seconds of the first drop and drift. It really put a big bend in my 8 wt. Cortland rod. The steady pull fooled me and I thought I hit the halibut hole. Eventually I started feeling the head shake that tells me "bass." I enjoyed the fight but it was a long time between the second fish. The big fly catches big fish. I hit all the historic spots where I have caught halibut but no one seemed to be home. They have not moved into the bridge area yet or they followed a school of smelt into the back bay and I missed them.

This was my first outing in Mission Bay this spring. I will try again in about two weeks unless I hear some good reports. Paul Costa came down and watched the sunset with me from shore. It was a beautiful night to be on the bay. It was getting dark by 7:30 PM. 5 to 7 was great to be floating around. Note the tidal current during a 5 foot exchange is like a river, not a pond or lake. Beginners should know you will have a hard time

kicking against the flow in the middle of the channel. The trick is to kick to the shoreline and then move up current. Sometimes I tie a 10 foot rope to the float tube and walk up the shallow shoreline, dragging the float tube. If you walk in the mud - shuffle your feet to scare away the round sting rays. There are tons of sting rays in the bays.

I love the Fisherman's Channel but you need some experience to know where the eel grass beds begin and end. I fish the outside edges on the low tides and the inside edges on the high tides. If you fish over the 30 foot wide strips of eel grass you fish with lighter Clousers or Bay Anchovies and just tick the top of the weeds. You don't want to use the heavy dumb bell flies in the weeds. Use them at the edges and under the bridge. I love under the bridge because the shade prevents the eel grass to grow. The concrete supports provide structure and bait fish love shade. I drift as close to the concrete as possible. Most of my biggest halibut have come in front of or behind the concrete supports. 20 years of fishing tells me they will be there sometime soon. It is just a matter of when the big females move in from the surf. Two or three small males will be snuggled up next to each of the big females. Then Lucky will be smiling. I don't release legal Halibut. They are dinner. :) 



Match the Flower

Phenology—a branch of science dealing with the relations between climate and periodic biological phenomena (insect emergence and plant flowering). **Notes by Charles Meck, Pennsylvania, June 2006.** Copied by Lucky Ketcham to help understand the Ecology of Fly Fishing –how things are inter-related.

Have you ever noticed that certain hatches appear at the same time that a particular plant blooms? I have studied the hatches for the past 50 years. I have noted that the emergence time of these hatches correlates very closely with the flowing of some plants. I even mentioned this correlation in **1977 in *Meeting and Fishing the Hatches***. For example, the **early season Blue Quill mayfly** usually appears at the time the **yellow Forsythia is ready to bloom, around April 12 in central Pennsylvania**. On warm springs the hatch appears earlier—and so does the flower; on unusually cool springs the hatch appears later and so does the flower. Here are a few of the **major hatches and the flowers that appear at the time of the emergence**.

For example, I've noted that at the time when the **domestic rhododendron first blooms the Brown Drake** usually appears. That goes for the entire United States. I'll never forget the time I fished the Brown Drake hatch on Henry's Fork in Idaho. I still remember hiking past a ranger's house on my way out that evening after fishing the hatch and seeing a **rhododendron bush in its full purple glory**.

Grannom (*Brachycentrus fuliginosus*)—Forsythia just opening

Blue Quill (*Paraleptophlebia adoptiva*)—Forsythia in heavy yellow bud

Quill Gordon (*Epeorus pleuralis*)—Forsythia in heavy yellow bud

Hendrickson (*Ephemerella subvaria*)—Forsythia just opening

Sulphur (*Ephemerella invaria*) and Pale Morning Dun (W)(*Ephemerella inermis*)—Lilac in bloom

March Brown (*Mccaffertium vicarium*)**—Dame's rocket blooming

Light Cahill (*Stenacron interpunctatum*)—Oxeye daisy first blooms

Slate Drake (*Isonychia bicolor*)—Oxeye daisy blooming

Brown Drake (*Ephemera simulans*)—Domestic rhododendron first blooming

Green Drake (*Ephemera guttulata*)—Locust tree blooming

Blue-Winged Olive Dun (*Drunella lata*)*—Oxeye daisy blooming

Yellow Drake (*Ephemera varia*)—Elderberry blooming and chicory flower first opens

Trico (*Tricorythodes species*)—Spotted knapweed blooming

White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*)—New England aster just opening

*Includes cornuta

**Includes Gray Fox



FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly Tying Reminder Sheet – Lucky Ketcham

Keep reviewing the proportions of dry flies and wet flies in your head, until they come to you naturally. Most mayflies have the same proportions:

Dry Fly:

The head of a dry fly is no more than one hook eye – but the current trend is to make them as small as possible. Thin thread and one or two three turn whip finishes. The position of a dry fly wing can vary. It can be 2/3 to 3/4 of the hook shank. A.K. Best says two eyes back from the eye for his quill body mayflies. Parachute posts are usually two hook eye widths back about 4/5 of the hook shank. Thorax Mayflies the wing and hackle are tied mid-shank, making a pronounced large thorax. The wing length is always just a little longer than the hackle. The wing is 2 hook gaps long – measured along the body it is from behind the eye to the bend of the hook.

The hackle is 1 ½ hook gaps or ¾ the length of the shank, measured from behind the eye. “Variants” are mayfly patterns that have longer hackle, two or more hook gaps. They are usually fished bouncing and skating over the surface at the tail of a pool. Learn to lock in the hackle stem with a figure 8, or a folded back locked quill style. The tails are 2X hook gap, or the length of a standard hook shank. (May be a little longer) The abdomens are thin, 8–9 segmented and slightly tapered. The amount of dubbing to put on a small dry fly abdomen should be a sparse wisp, just enough to make a “bumpy thread.” Segments are usually smaller at the rear and progress wider to the thorax. The spacing is about the hook diameter, or body diameter. Insects have yellow/green blood, Hemocyanin. Yellow thread is often used to segment the abdomen. (The red blood in mosquitoes and black flies is usually – your blood.) Thoraxes are usually 30% fatter than the abdomen.

Nymphs:

Body shapes: long and thin for slow water (Swimmers), short with broad thoraxes in fast water. (Clingers) Body/abdomens are two thirds the hook shank, can be ½ the hook shank on fast water nymphs. Thorax is the front 1/3 with space for the head. Make the thorax robust on fast water nymphs. Tails on nymphs are always short and sparse. “No bushy tailed aquatic insects.” Tail length is one hook gap or ½ the shank length Legs are one half the shank length; to the sides and down, never up or straight down. Wing pads are usually dark just before the emergent stage. Movement is important. Charles Jardine says if he ties for himself he uses the softest materials he can find, to breathe life into the nymph; but for sale you have to use materials that hold their shape in the fly box. (He would use CDC, grouse, partridge, hen, ostrich, mallard flank.)

Streamers and Buggers

The head is usually longer and tapered, three hook eyes long as a general rule. The tail of woolly bugger is normally as long as the hook shank. Properly size or break off the marabou tail, do not cut off in a flat cut off. “There are no right angles in nature.” – Gary Hilbers used to say. Palmered hackle can be longer than hackle sized for dry flies, softer hackle for movement. Normally 5 spiral wraps of hackle are suggested for woolly buggers with even spacing about as wide as the body material. One coat of head cement will hold the fly together, but three coats will look better for sale or display.

Attach craft fur and long slippery flash fibers just off the middle and fold back to prevent pulling out and to make the rear of the fibers from being too uniform or squared off. Fold and lock in materials whenever possible. Learn to count the wraps of thread, lead, copper, hackles, chenille; you make for a particular pattern so the next one will be similar or exactly the same. (Of course not on thread bases or something

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Fly of the Month

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like that)

One tier was making copper pheasant tail nymphs and he cut all the copper wire for the nymphs to exactly 8 or exactly 11 inches before he started. He used just copper wire with the pheasant tail and made a heavy ball of copper for the thorax, instead of peacock herl. – He was teaching consistency by using the same lengths of material for each fly or hook size.

In Dry flies the thread wraps are weight. Use as few wraps as possible. You do not normally tie a full thread base. Count the wraps you tie in the tail. I always remind myself of A.K. Best saying “three tight wraps” of 6/0 thread will hold almost any material. (Except squirrel tail). Count the wraps of hackle for the wing, like three behind and six in front; four up the post three down with the last two under the rest. It is okay to talk to your self when tying flies late at night.

The head of the fly is pretty important in fly tying. If you were in a contest, the head of your fly will be the first thing the judges will look at. Size, symmetry, shape, any materials showing through or sticking out the front or sides, head cement into the materials or into the hook eye are all important. When you get to tying salmon flies like Paul Woolery is learning, you would be using silk tying threads; the judges would look to see if you flattened the threads before you wrapped the head. Every wrap of the thread bobbin puts a twist into a flat thread. You have to spin the bobbin in the reverse direction, hang it over your bodkin needle to make sure it is flat, make three or four wraps and then flatten the thread again. If the threads on your salmon fly have a round appearance they would give you a deduction. Of course in the old days they did not use a bobbin. The silk would be just cut in strips and held with a wooden clothes pin or wood clamp. They would not twist on each wrap.

When you tie some of the very small thread midges you will use floss or mono-cord that will be flattened to wrap the ultra thin body to the bend and then twist the thread tightly and wrap the ribbing. The little round ribbing shows up on those little midges, quite distinctly. One of my favorite fly tiers, A.K. Best always says the time to fix a fly is when it is in the vise. If you are not happy with the set of a wing, cut it off and tie in a new one. Clean the head cement out of the eye of the hook in the vise, not on the water. The same applies to a head that is too lumpy.

The reason that the lumps appeared on Bob’s clump dubbed leech head is that we put that last clump of dubbing on in a hurry. I put it on and spread evenly to the sides, but when we pulled the front dubbing back I did not take the time to spread it out evenly around the hook. There was more dubbing on one side, when covered by the thin thread it caused the head to be lumpy.

Now how to fix it.

1. You can always get out your trusty razor blade, lance or scalpel and cut off the thread head and last clump of dubbing. You have to be careful, and hold your left hand index finger on top of the remaining materials while you retie the thread and wrap over the ends, or —it might come unraveled. A little super glue might hold the ends while you are making the repairs to a fly. I would attach new thread and perhaps that last clump of dubbing.

2. Another method is to cover the lumps with another material. Covering mistakes is a long tradition in fly tying. I’m sure many flies were invented by covering up a mistake or two. An Egg Sucking Leech is always a good pattern. You could attach a red or pink thread, and then attach some medium, pink, orange, red or light green chenille. Make two to three wraps of chenille to create a little egg ball, then whip finish behind the gold bead.

3. Another method to cover it up would be to add some peacock herl. Peacock herl is cocaine for trout; add

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Fly of the Month

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it to any fly and it will probably be a better pattern.

4. Another idea would be to attach one of those nice soft hackles, or collar wrap a mallard flank feather. A soft hackle collar would give more movement to the fly.

What ever you choose, I just wanted to let you know it is okay to be picky about your flies. It is one reason we learn to tie our own. No commercial tier can afford to spend the time that we can spend on one fly, at least and sell it for \$1.50. You can buy a Dave Whitlock Sculpin for \$50. If you want to pay for his time. I have a box of them and they cost me \$0.25 each. Don't be afraid to use the razor. A "lance" used to be on the list of standard fly tier's tools. Today we would say Exacto knife or scalpel.

Wash your hands frequently, especially when working with light colored materials and/or silk threads. Oils will discolor the silk threads and floss. When attaching lead or wire always try to keep the long parallel strips on the bottom of the hook shank, not the top or sides. Begin and end lead and wire wraps on the bottom of the fly for a better appearance. Cut thicker lead at a 45 degree angle with nail clippers or nipper pliers, for a better transition and to avoid that 90 degree cut. Cover the lead with a cocoon of thread and coat with head cement to avoid oxidation and a white powder showing through your dubbing. Always practice cutting light materials and hackles on the top of the hook shank, leaving the thread and bobbin hanging to the bottom. You will reduce the number of times you accidentally cut your thread.

Practice breaking your thread a few times when you change sizes and/or brands. It is important to know just how much tension you can put on a thread. You should make your tight material holding wraps almost to the breaking strength of that thread. A. K. Best says if you are not breaking your thread once in a while, you are not tying your flies tight enough. The name of the game is thread control. Pinch down on the thread spool with your pinky and ring fingers while holding the bobbin. Learn to spin the bobbin to make the thread behave.

Learn to make those two soft pinch wraps to start the attachment of most tails and body materials. Then adjust the lengths, pull materials under the thread, or move to proper position, before making those "three tight wraps."

This was supposed to be a short list of hints and reminders to help new fly tiers. For more tying tips look on the internet: <http://flyanglersonline.com/> Tying Tips and Archive of Tying Tips. Try to Google - "Fly Tying Tips"



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
2012- Bill and Eileen Stroud



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.

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Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill and 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 (in mem), Lloyd Jefferies (in mem), Doug Joseph, Gary Hilbers, Tom Smith, Bud Olsen

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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 **May FINNY FACTS**
articles---**Friday April 12th.**

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	2012-Lee McElravy
2000-Tom Smith	
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki	
2002-Larry Sorensen	
2003-Jim Tenuto	

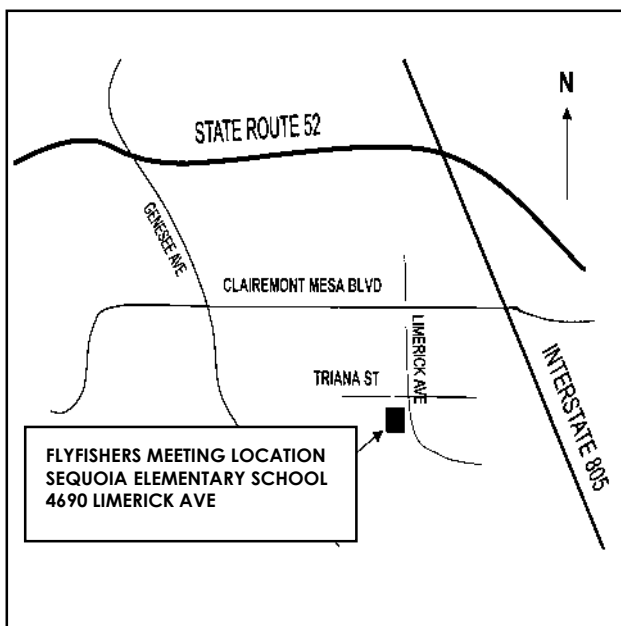


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www.sandiegoflyfishers.com

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.



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**San Diego
Fly Fishers**

*Official Chapter of
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SINCE 1962