



## FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Our February speaker is **Tom Loe** owner of Sierra Drifters near Mammoth CA. Many of you have fished the Bishop to Mammoth area with Tom. His specialty is Crowley Lake located south of Mammoth and drifting the lower Owens River year around. Tom started his pursuit of his life long dream in 1998 by changing his career from a commercial fisherman (he is the only licensed coast guard captain to guide in the Eastern Sierra) to a full time sport fishing guide by launching his Sierra Drifters Guide Service. His passion for fly fishing started much sooner at the age of nine. He chose the Bishop/Mammoth area because that is where he and his wife, Michele spent the majority of their vacations over the last fifteen years. Bob Camp recently fished Crowley with Tom and had one of the best fishing days of his life (which is really saying something since Bob has had more fishing days than anyone else in our Club!). Bob not only caught lots of healthy fish but also thoroughly enjoyed every minute with Tom.

Here is a great opportunity to get some real insights into trout fishing the Eastern Sierra by one of the best guides in the area. Come join us. The season opener is just not far off!

### REMINDER

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

**Ed Velton and  
Joe Bain**

*Thank you, Mona Morebello*

## Costa Rica Fishing at Its Finest

By Jerry Cole

Robin Williams, not the actor, has created one of the finest fishing lodges in Central America and perhaps the world. Crocodile Bay Lodge, on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula presents a fishing venue that is unique and luxurious.

A short forty minute flight from San Jose to Puerto Jimenez, a small village on Golfo Dulce in the southwest Costa Rica. The Lodge is a short walk from the airstrip, but I was met by one of the courteous drivers, who chauffeured me to the main reception area. Todd Staley, an old friend and the "Jefe" of the Lodges extensive fishing operation was there to greet me. After a brief tour of the grounds he escorted me to my room, a spacious air-conditioned unit with two queen-sized beds, private deck, ceiling fans and full-sized Jacuzzi tub.

It took me only a few minutes to change and assemble my fishing gear and then make the short walk to the dock where my guide, Carlos, awaited in his 21' Champion center console outboard.

The Lodge is only in its second season so all the boats and equipment are brand new. The fleet consists of five Striker 33's, two 27' Rambos, three 21' Champi-

ons and ten or more 17' Champion Flatsboats, ideal fly casting platforms. Every boat is equipped with top of the line electronics, including VHF radios.

Our target fish the first day was Snook and Roosterfish. Unfortunately neither species succumbed to our efforts, however we did manage a couple of "houndfish" (a kind of needlefish) and an African Pompano.

I fished a total of four days, two days in the 21' Champion, one in the 27' Rambo, and one day in the 17' Flatsboat. We went offshore for a few hours in the 27' and I landed two beautiful Dorado, a 35 lb. Bull

**continued on page 4**

### FLY CASTING AT LAKE MURRAY

Start the year off with some casting lessons. Dying to try out that new fly rod? Now would be a good time to learn to flycast or just improve your skills. Join the San Diego Fly Fishers every Sunday morning from 9 AM until noon.

(See map on back page for location).

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, February 5, 2001

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

I admit it; I'm a sucker for the scribblers. Having been known to push a noun and verb together myself on a few occasions, I enjoy listening to some of the author's who endeavor to bring us arm chair angling. Over the last few years we have heard some of fly-fishing's noted writers.

Dave Ames, who wrote one of the first "adult" fly-fishing books, *True Love and the Woolly Bugger* and Jennifer Olsson, who penned *Cast Again*, visited us. And we heard from **Tom Pero**, editor of the then *Wild Steelhead and Salmon* magazine, now reborn as *Fish & Fly*.

So I was pretty "amped" to hear local wordsmith **Richard Louv**, author of *Fly Fishing for Sharks*. I'm reading the book now and it is entertaining and provocative. Richard explores fishing as a culture and he draws from all of the sport's ample corners. It's not just about fly-fishing. Reading about **Bill & Eileen Stroud**, **John Bowman**, **Conway Bowman**, **Allen Greenwood** and the **Meling Ranch** gives this book an especially local flavor.

Evidently I'm not the only one who enjoys a good talk told by someone who tells tales for a living. We had ten guests who came to January's meeting and the room was absolutely packed. It was great to see some old friends whose absence had been duly noted. My guess, attendance ran well over 150 people.

**Pat Case** took care of some unfinished business, awarding fly plates to **Lane Pearson** and **Larry Sorenson**, in thanks of their hard work in 2000. And then he passed the gavel to me, amidst shouts of a demand for a recount and questions about hanging chads. This gavel...as far as I can remember the only president who used the gavel was **Gretchen Yearous**, who wielded it in an effort to keep us unruly types in order. Quite successfully, I might add.

**Ed Velton** brought a draft copy



JIM TENUTO

of the club history. I had very high expectations regarding the history, and Ed and his crew have far exceeded those expectations.

**Carrie Christianson** called for some words from the women members of the club, and once that chapter is finished, I believe we'll be going to press. This long anticipated project

will be worth the wait.

When I called for a volunteer to be **Bob Wisner's** *Finny Facts* back-up, **Don Davis** immediately stepped to the front of the line. Thank you, Mr. Davis!

**Stroud Tackle** is the home of a very local fly-fishing contest. Bill and Eileen announced that they will award \$100 gift certificates to the anglers who land the largest fresh water fish from local lakes and the largest salt water fish from bay or surf during 2001. On a fly rod, of course. Here are a couple of other rules. The winner must be a member of San Diego Fly Fishers, and must be able to verify the catch with a photograph or witness. The winners will be presented their gift certificates at the November 2001 SDFP meeting.

Following **Bill Howarth's** November program on fly-fishing for stripers, I decided that it was high time I visited my old buddy. We worked out a blast-and-cast program, wild turkeys and striped bass. I don't want to talk about the turkey...it wasn't my fault. Really. I did, however, have a grand old time on Frank's Tract up in the delta.

Bill's Boston Whaler definitely turns a few heads both at the marina and out on the water. Keith Westra, the manager of the fishing section of the San Francisco Orvis store, joined us that morning. The morning was a tad bit brisk, the dock covered with a thin sheet of ice. Things didn't improve when we finally left the channel and Bill opened the throttle to get us in our first fishing location.

I continued in my official role as Bill's guinea pig. My guess is that Bill figures if I can do it, anybody can do it. I tied on an experimental fly of his own creation, a white monstrosity of feather and synthetics with a BB-filled plastic case attached to the shank. A rattle fly. We are not going to discuss the ethics of whether this is fly-fishing. I had an eight-weight in my hand. There was a fly at the very end of the terminal tackle. We were, after all, fishing for stripers. Long casts, fast retrieves. I was fly-fishing. That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

At the end of the day my left hand looked like a claw. I gained a view of what arthritis must feel like. The constant stripping had taken its toll. And my right shoulder felt like I pitched a nine-inning ball game...and gave up quite a few walks along the way. That was from heaving about 60+ feet of line on just about every cast.

But by the end of the day (a shortened four hours on the water for me), I had eight stripers take the fly and we landed all but one. And I got to spend time with one of my best friends and a superb sportsman. And I got to meet a great young man, someone who has a passion and love for fly-fishing.

All in all not a bad way to spend a cold morning in the San Francisco Bay Area. 🌿



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## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

**PROGRAM MEETING-5th-Monday, 7:30 PM, Tom Loe, Sierra Drifters.**

**CUTOFF DATE FOR FINNY FACTS ARTICLES-16th-Friday, Send articles to: Rose and Roger Yamasaki,**

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## **Renew! Renew!**

**If you haven't already, please send in your Club membership renewal for 2001 (renewal form below). Single: \$30.00, Family: \$40.00 annual dues. Don't wait until your treasured *FINNY FACTS* stops coming.**

**Send to:**

**Helen Grundler**

**OR drop it off at our membership table at the February meeting.**

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**Cut**

### **San Diego Fly Fishers 2001 Membership Renewal**

Please print your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Any address change: \_\_\_\_\_

City & 9 digit ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number with area code: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose Check or Money Order payable to: San Diego Fly Fishers

Please indicate: Single \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ or Family \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You



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## Costa Rica Fishing

continued from page 1

and a 25 lb. Female. The Bull put up a spectacular fight, jumping at least 15 times. The day I fished from the 17' Flatsboat was also remarkable. I landed a couple of 20-25 lb. Jacks, a 7 lb. Snapper and a 20 lb. Roosterfish.

The variety of fish available in this area is phenomenal. Offshore you have Marlin, Sails, Wahoo, Tuna, Dorado, etc. Inshore

there are Snook (4 types), Snapper, Barracuda, Corvina, Roosterfish, Jack Crevelle, Bluefin, Trevally, Amberjack, Pompano, Grouper, Sierra Mackerel.

The Lodge also has a well organized Eco-tour program for the non-fisher. Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica's largest, is located a short distance away.

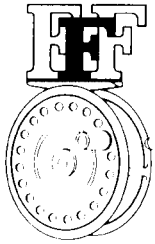
Crocodile Bay Lodge has a web page, [info@crocodilebay.com](mailto:info@crocodilebay.com), so if you are interested, more information is available there.

The food is great, the staff is English speaking, kind and courteous, the facilities are top-notch. It's a great package, I recommend it highly. 🍷

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## Federation of Fly Fishers

*Conserving — Restoring — Educating Through Fly Fishing*



I was recently reading an article out of a major fly fishing magazine in which the author made the statement, “as trout get smarter, we will need more blah, blah, blah”.

Smarter fish? Is this more of that genetic tampering stuff? How ‘smart’ can a fish really be? Is there an intelligence limit or can we expect some trigonometry-trained trout soon?

Face it, trout have the brain about the size of a pea. How smart are they, really?

Elephants are thought to have a genetic memory, that is, newborns can find their way to a watering hole they have never been to, and locate it precisely. This same genetic memory goes for food, what is safe to eat, what is not safe to eat. We cannot say the same for trout. I once caught and tossed a live grasshopper, wiggly legs and all, right into the path of a feeding trout. The grasshopper floated safely by and continued to do so as long as I could see it

downstream. Smart fish? This is the same smart fish that about ten minutes later inhaled a creation of deer hair, yarn, gold wire, and chicken feathers thinking it was something edible.

Yep, these guys are getting smarter for sure. Those fly tying (selling) types seem to think so. Every year the ‘new’ patterns emerge (yes, pun intended) to be the ticket to those trigonometry-trained trout. Those trout have just out-smarted last year’s model.

Several years ago I was fishing the South Fork of the Merced River, precisely casting meticulously tied mayfly patterns, and getting totally ignored by fish of an obviously superior intelligence. These fish were out in the middle of the river calculating trigonometric ratios in order to dart to my fly, just miss it, and throw in a little tail splash as a final taunt. Just the week before an old-timer (experienced fisherman) had asked me, as he looked into my

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## From the FFF Clubwire News

Submitted by Gil Hassen of the Merced Flyfishing Club of California

### THE FISH SMART

fly box “what ever happened to the ol’ royal coachman?” That thought came to my mind as I tried an old coachman pattern and yup, you guessed it, fish on! How smart indeed. Substantiated proof once again that weak genetics override superior intelligence. No genetic memory in the South Fork, yet.

How smart you still ask? Fish in the Green River have scarred and swollen lips because of so many hook removals. Fish in rivers all over have been caught with a fly still attached to a shredded piece of 6X tippet, dangling from the lower jaw. There is also that college dropout trout who breaks off a #16 Adams pattern, only to eat the exact same pattern in the exact same time it takes to tie on the new pattern. It’s a real bonus to get your original fly returned.

We need to reconsider the ‘smart’ trout and rethink the not-so-smart fly fisherman. Once again, genetics override intelligence. 🍷





**JACK BENTLEY**

**Any Questions?  
Call Jack Bentley at**

### **Green River Trip Slated for May 14-19, 2001**

The annual Flaming Gorge, Green River Utah Trip will be coming up this spring, scheduled for Monday May 14th through Saturday May 19th. Make your reservations early (by at least March 30th) because this is a very popular trip. Call Jack at for details.

### **Lees Ferry Trip 2001**

This is a nice trip for at least two to four people. But if you cannot get your own group together plan to go with the Club (dates still in the planning stages).

### **Fishing Ideas for the Year 2001**

**These are just ideas. Any questions regarding these ideas call Jack Bentley at**

#### January

Bishop Area  
Lake Skinner stripers

#### February

Lees Ferry  
Lake Skinner

#### March

Lees Ferry  
Lake Skinner  
Bishop Area  
Lower Sac River  
FFFSWC Fish Show

#### April

Lees Ferry  
Bishop Area  
San Juan  
Lower Sac River

#### May

Green River  
(May 14-19)\*  
Bishop Area  
Lees Ferry  
Lower Sac (shad)

#### June

Lees Ferry  
Lower Sac (shad+trout)  
Montana

#### July

Wyoming  
Montana

#### August

Wyoming  
Klamath River

#### September

Klamath River  
Lake Crowley  
Mammoth Lakes  
Lees Ferry

#### October

Bishop Area  
Lake Crowley  
Mammoth Lakes  
San Juan (Oct 15-20)\*  
Feather River

#### November

Feather River

#### December

Lees Ferry

\*Firm dates

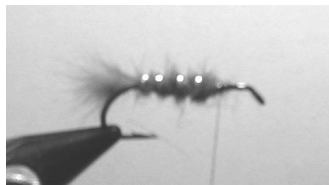
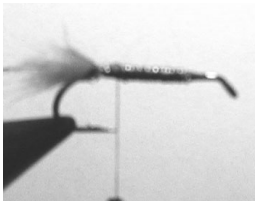


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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## GOLD RIBBED HARE'S EAR

Hook:	TMC 3761 or any 1x long nymph hook size 8-20
Thread:	Black 6/0 or 8/0
Tail:	Guard hairs from hare's mask
Rib:	Oval gold tinsel
Body:	Tan hare's mask fur or Hareline Dubbin hare's ear natural or tan
Wing case:	Turkey feather (can omit on flies smaller than #14)
Thorax:	Blended hare's mask fur - dark brown or Hareline Dubbin dark brown



1. Wrap 12 to 15 turns of lead wire on the hook shank. Wrap thread from just behind the eye to the bend of the hook. Make sufficient turns of thread to secure the lead wire.
2. Select a patch of guard hair from a hare's mask. Remove some but not all of the under fur. Tie this in at the bend of the hook. The tail should be half the length of the hook shank. If you used lead to weight the hook the tail should be tied tight against the lead.
3. Tie on the ribbing material at the bend. Use medium tinsel for the larger hooks and fine for the smaller hooks. Dub a fairly fat body tapering down to the hook bend. Wrap the body to about the two-fifths point behind the eye. The body should be tied buggy. You don't want a neat tightly dubbed body.
4. Wrap the tinsel ribbing forward to the end of the body. Use 4-6 evenly spaced wraps.
5. Clip a section of well marked turkey tail feather approximately a hook gape wide. Tie the feather on with the marked side down and the thick end of the fibers extending towards the tail. Take several tight wraps forcing the wingcase back against the end of the body. This will prevent a gap when you pull it forward over the thorax.
6. Dub the thorax and again make it buggy and fat. Wrap the thorax tight against the tie in point of the wingcase. Tie it off at an eye length behind the eye allowing room for tying off the wingcase and forming the head.
7. Pull the wingcase forward over the thorax and tie it down with several tight turns. Clip the excess and form a neat head. Whip finish and apply head cement. I sometimes pick out a few hairs with my bodkin to give the fly a buggier look.

This, in my opinion, is the most reliable of the "Basic Four" searching patterns as noted in Dave Hughes book "Trout Flies". It works in lakes as well as streams. Every fly box should have a good supply of Gold Ribbed Hare's Ears. It also works well tied with a bead head. Simple to tie and very effective.

Tom Smith



**H**owdy friends and Sierra Drifters. I hope the start of this New Year finds you all healthy and happy with future plans for a fishing adventure here in the Eastern Sierra.

The weather has changed significantly since our last report. The eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada received about 4 feet of snow, with the Owens Valley picking up about a half inch of precipitation. It has been wicked cold during the mornings and evenings. This has brought water temps down to 39 degrees in the Lower Owens River. Fishing has been slow overall, with some large fish being hooked on streamer patterns as the highlight of this report.

The forecast is for a high-pressure ridge to build over the west during the next several days with warmer daytime temps and dry conditions to prevail over this area.

Snow level is about 6000 feet. There was no snow on the Owens Valley floor during this previous storm period. The dirt roads are damp, however not a problem as far as getting stuck is concerned.

## Lower Owens River: Wild Trout and Drift Boat Sections: Fair

Flows have been yo-yoing around as of late. They have been lowered to 160 cfs. as of this report. They had been at 200cfs. The water temp is a bone chilling 39 degrees. This has slowed fishing down. Small midges are the only emergence to report. The fish are holding in deep pools and softer water. We are still hitting some big fish on streamer patterns. Multiple casts in the feeding lanes will pay off on these big guys. The key is patience! Fish

do not move far to feed when the water is this cold. Nymphing with midge and caddis larva patterns near the bottom will also get some soft takes. Be methodical and work the deep bends and holes carefully.

## SIERRA DRIFTERS



**TOM LOE**

battle. This big hen rainbow went an even 25" and weighed about 7 lbs. You da man Scotty! .

Steve Pitts, of Orange, Ca., and his buddy Jeff Lonner, of Brea, Ca. took a drift between weather fronts and Steve landed a gorgeous rainbow after a perfect cast, while pulling a streamer pattern. Nice fish guys!

You may check out these pictures and others if you visit our website at <http://sierradrifters.com>. Please click on fish report.

## Pleasant Valley Reservoir: Good

This has been the most consistent area for fly fishers as of late. The water is a little warmer here, 42 degrees. Heavy plantings of D.F.G. brood stock from the Hot Creek hatchery and Alpers trout plants by the Bishop area Chamber of Commerce have put a good number of fish in this area. Some wild browns are feeding; they are on the thin side just coming off the winter spawn.

Freeze tubing will get you steady action for as long as you can stand being in the water. Pull olive or black streamers in

sizes 6-12. Have some red and crystal flash in the pattern for best results. Fish the inlet area near the powerhouse end of the reservoir. Use a full, or heavy sink tip with 4x fluorocarbon as tippet.

The river section leading into the reservoir is spotty. There are some big planters roaming around here. They have been making power in the afternoon so be careful not to get stuck when the flows increase here. There is no alarm. Watch for any increase in water level. Nymphing with midge larva #16-18 will get takes on the holdover fish and browns. Pull streamers for the planters. A 12' type 3 sink tip will work fine in this area. Be careful while wading in this area for slippery ice and frozen mud. If you have wading boots with studs, break them out.


## The Gorge: Fair

It is very cold here also. Some snow and ice on the trails leading into this area make it tricky to get down. The fishing is slow. A dry and dropper is still your best bet. Walk in from the lower section. This area is tough to fish but has larger pools so you can expect fish to concentrate in these.

## East Walker River Update:

3,500 gallons is the amount of heating oil that spilled into the river after a truck overturned. The D.F.G. is saying initial impact was minimal due to low flows, and cold temps that slowed the oils progress. Only a couple of fish, and a beaver were reported to be victims. The cold temps are making cleanup difficult. The long-term effects of this spill are not possible to predict as of this time. It is ugly to say the least. The Rosachi Ranch section in Nevada has not been affected thus far by the initial spill.

Keep your fingers crossed...

Best fishes to all, be the fly...Tom Loe,  
Sierra Drifters Guide Service 760-935-4250 







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## DISCOUNTED RENZETTI VICE'S

Renzetti, Inc. is running an offer called "Pass on the Tradition" through April of 2001. Anyone interested in a new Renzetti vise may purchase it at a discount by trading in an old usable vise to his or her local dealer. Those old vises will be reconditioned at the Renzetti factory and given to the FFF and other non-profit organizations for use in kids programs throughout the country. There is also a drawing for a trip to Boca Paila, a Renzetti vise and other prizes that will be drawn at the 2001 Conclave in Livingston. Contact your local Renzetti dealer for information and give a child a chance to learn to tie.

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Eileen & Bill Stroud

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Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill and Eileen Stroud, Bernie Hammes, Hugh Turner, Nancy Pitts, Bob Wisner, Ken Armer, Glen Paul, Betty Coram, Ned Sewell, John Kasten, Leo Bergevin, George Beach, Bob Camp, Marvin Darling, Gene Jerzewski, Oz Osborn, Robbie Robinson, John Gauld

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Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler, Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

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For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the fly fishing community

1991-Ned Sewell  
1992-Bob Camp  
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud  
1994-Ed Velton  
1995-Bob Wisner  
1996-Gary Hilbers  
1997-Jack Bentley  
1998-Gordie Zimm  
1999-Gretchen Yearous  
2000-Tom Smith





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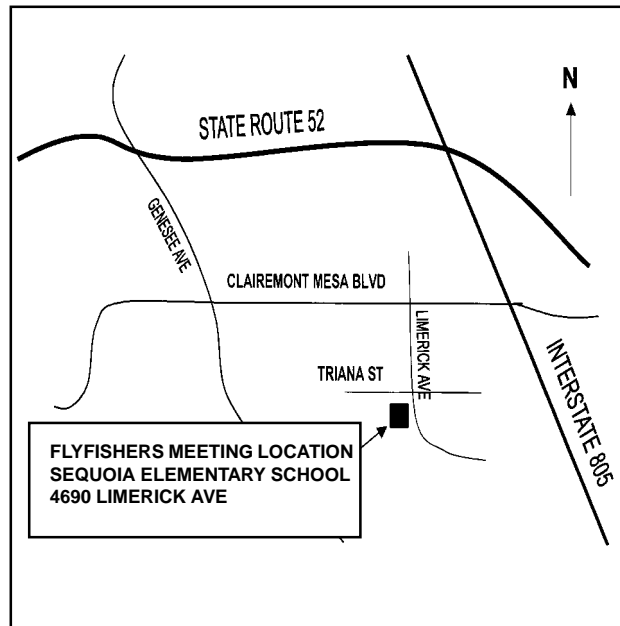
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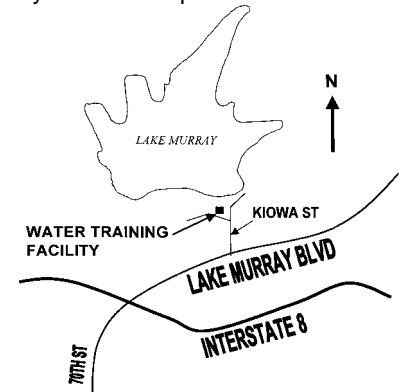
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Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Blvd. Go north on Lake Murray Blvd. to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.



Meeting Place for Workshops

SD Water Training Facility. Just before entering Lake Murray, turn left off Kiowa and go through 1st gate to 2nd gate. Turn right before 2nd gate.

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