

# FINNY FACTS

FEBRUARY 2003

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 8, No. 2

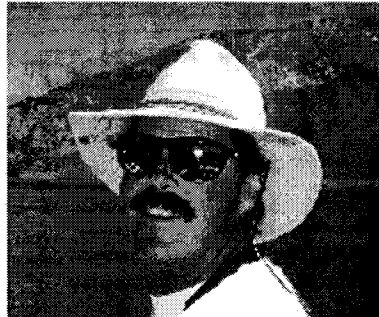
## February Speaker

### Tom Loe of Sierra Drifters to Speak at February Meeting

About the only time you can drag Tom off of the waters of the Eastern Sierra is in the dead of winter, when the snow is piled high, the wind is blowing hard, the days have become short and cold, and even then it's not easy! We've managed to pull it off again this year, however, and are excited to have Tom Loe as our guest speaker for February.

If you have missed Tom's presentation in the past, this is your chance to experience someone who truly has an intimate knowledge of and mastered the art of fishing what many of us consider to be our "home waters."

After 22 years of harpooning broadbill swordfish as owner/operator of offshore commercial fishing vessels on both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, Tom returned to his roots in the Eastern Sierra. He and his wife Michelle purchased a home ideally positioned overlooking Crowley Lake and began spending large blocks of time fishing the area (how did he ever talk



Michelle into that?!) while perfecting novel methods of accessing and developing unique techniques of fly fishing for trout. Tom pioneered guided drift boats down the Lower Owens River in 1998 and founded Sierra Drifters Guide Service, he has now assisted over 2,000 fly-fishers in their pursuit of trout in the Eastern Sierra. Today Tom spends a large part of the summer months guiding on Crowley Lake where he has perfected still water nymphing techniques from a fly fishing flats boat. His marine background has aligned him well in the guide business, as has implemented the use of boats to access trout with a fly rod in the Eastern Sierra.

Do not miss Tom Loe February 3rd!

--Marty Reed

## REMINDER

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

**Les Schultz and  
Ron Larsen**

*Thank you, Mona Morebello*

## MEETING NOTICE

Monday, February 3rd, 2003  
7:30 PM

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

## Meling Ranch Open Once Again

The Rancho El Coyote Meling was founded as a cattle ranch in 1950 by Felipe Salvador Meling Johnson, the son of Texas born Alberta ("Bertie") Johnson and her Norwegian husband, Salvador ("Salve") Meling. Felipe dedicated his whole life to breeding cattle, with his brand being the Bar F.

Rancho El Coyote Meling spreads out along the skirts of the imposing Sierra de San Pedro Mártir, Baja California's highest mountains. It is in this broad region that the Melings continue the tradition of widespread ranching that demands periodic cattle drives, branding, continual fence maintenance and pasture rotation. As was the custom of Felipe, his descendants perform the annual sierra climb in spring during which the cattle are driven to greener grazing areas in the high mountains, and then are rounded up to return to the ranch before the winter snowfall

In this rugged, virgin environment, the variety of wildlife includes dove, mountain quail, deer, rabbit, mountain lion, coyote, coati mundi and raccoon as well as rainbow trout in sparkling streams. There are old placer gold finds and gold diggings, some of which have not been worked and others in operation. Nearby is the Prospector's Cave (Cueva del Gambusino), the historic El Socorro mine that once attracted many a hopeful gold

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: FEBRUARY 2003

Last month's program by **Pat Vermillion** was the most unusual that I've attended, and I hope that some of you will be able to experience the dry fly fishing for taimen. I sure would like to catch one of those huge fish on a mouse pattern! It was nice to see the large turnout for the January program that **Marty Reed**

arranged for us, and I'm always pleased to see some new faces. Unfortunately, I'm not able to always get around to greet the newcomers, and welcome them to join our club. So, I would appreciate it if whenever you can, please give a warm "hello" our visitors (you don't have to mean it... and that will be our secret).

Suggest to the newcomers that in addition to coming to our monthly meetings, that they join one of **Tom Smith's** fly tying classes, **Ron Meler's** rod building classes, or take casting lessons from **Ned Sewell and John Kasten** on Sunday. I believe that this is the best way for all of us to get to know each other, and for new fly fishers to find partners to share our great sport!

Each of us can help a novice fly fisher improve and catch more fish! I still remember going out in my float tube to Lake Cuyamaca on a Wednesday afternoon when I just started fly fishing. It was right after the Department of Fish and Game had planted some nice rainbows, and I wasn't doing well. All 2,000 pounds of hatchery trout were ignoring my black and olive Woolly Buggers, and even my olive Matuka (the one with the red throat!).

At the south end, in front of the boat dock, were the Wednesday Bunch, and they were all doing well. Every five to ten minutes, one of them would catch a fish...



**WARREN LEW**

and leading the catch and release "count", was **Tom Smith**. Tom was fishing two flies at the same time, and had at least one double hook up!

Tom didn't know that I was a SDFF member, but he sure made a difference in my fishing that day. After seeing him catch five fish and

witness his double hook up, I finned over and asked what he was using. He took time to show me the pattern he had tied, which was like a Woolly Bugger, but with a marabou wing (they were not commercially available at the time, and the Cuyamaca trout could not resist them). Seeing that I wasn't having a great day, he gave me one. Within the hour, I caught and released several trout, which changed my day from a day of trolling to one of playing several fish on the end of my line! I have always appreciated Tom's generosity

that day!

Your board of directors meets once a month and welcomes any suggestions you have to help us get to know each other better, and improve our fly fishing skills. Just telephone or pull us aside at any meeting to give us your input. 🐟

*Warren Lew*

### 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 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.



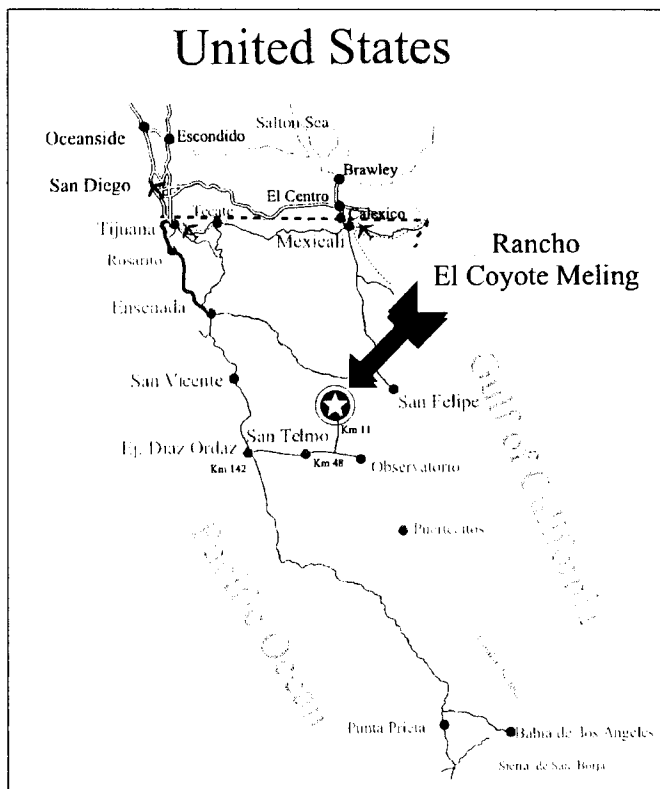
## Meling Ranch

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miner, and the remains of a 16-mile-long aqueduct, hand-built in 1896 by Felipe's grandfather, Harry Johnson, a Texas miner who had relocated to Baja California in the 1880s.

Rancho El Coyote Meling is presently run and operated by Felipe's family who use many of the original recipes and maintain the legacy of authentic home style cooking. Handmade flour tortillas, dried beef (machaca), homemade bread, apple and peach pies, cookies, fruit preserves, and farm-fresh milk and eggs are all prepared and presented in the traditional manner of Baja California pioneers, complete with the same gracious hospitality.

**San Diego contact:**  
**Gregg Shobe**  
**619-390-0905**



### WE OFFER YEAR ROUND:

- Comfortable rooms and delicious family-style meals in our historic adobe ranch house.
- A spacious tent camping area with restrooms, hot showers and BBQ grills plus 2 RV hookups (water and septic).
- Horseback riding.
- Hiking trails, bird watching and star-gazing.
- Gold panning and exploration, just like the old prospectors.

### PLUS SEASONAL SADDLE TRIP PACKAGES FOR GROUPS:

- Pack trips through the Sierra de San Pedro Mártir (April-Sept. depending on snowfall).
- Cattle drives and cattle handling only for experienced cowboys (during spring).
- Quail hunting (Oct.-Jan.) and deer hunting (Oct.-Nov.).
- Rainbow trout fly-fishing (April-Oct.) catch and release.

Group saddle trips require 3 persons up to a maximum of 8. A minimum of 3 days is necessary. Packages include trail horses, bilingual experienced guide, cook, and all meals and beverages. Reservations must be made at least one month in advance.

### GET AWAY FROM IT ALL:

Whether walking, hiking, horseback riding or simply unwinding from daily stress, you can do it "old Baja California cowboy style" at Rancho El Coyote Meling. We have a space reserved for you, far away from crowds, traffic, TV and telephones. Our space is your space for relaxation, recreation, and rediscovering the beauty and tranquillity of nature, fresh mountain air and endless starry skies.





JACK BENTLEY

Any Questions?  
Call Jack Bentley at

## Special 2 for 1 Offer for the Sallery Lodge

The Sallery Lake Lodge on Kodiak Island, Alaska, has offered our club another 2 for 1 opportunity for the week of 20-26 July, 2003. Total cost per person is \$2,325 estimating a \$600 purchase of this offer to benefit the San Diego Fly Fishers. A silent auction will be staged at the April 7th club meeting. More than 20 people have gone to this lodge and highly endorse this trip.

Contact Jack Bentley for more information.

## The Green River in the Spring

Start planning now for the most popular outing of the year.

The Green River at the Flaming Gorge. May 12-17, 2003.

Contact Jack Bentley for all the details at

## Is Fly Fishing Sexy?

The following is shamelessly borrowed from editor Rob Sloan of *FLYLIFE* magazine and is offered with apologies to the fairer sex:

Can fly fishing be described as sexy? Apparently so.

Perhaps it is no great secret that fly fishers are masochists and sooner or later, someone was going to cash in on it. This deviant predisposition took center stage recently in Tasmania when the proprietors of the Tarraleah Chalet opened the doors of Fetish Manor, with its resident dominatrix (an attractive young woman, not a fly pattern) ready and willing to dish out further punishment after a hard day's fishing.

Since the old (hydroelectric) village in central Tasmania ceased to function about a year ago, the new lessees have struggled to attract tourists to this once thriving

town. Nestled atop the steep-sided Nive River valley, with spectacular river and forest views, Tarraleah Village once serviced the construction and maintenance of the extensive Tungatinah and Tarraleah hydro power schemes. With ready access to the related network of ponds, streams and canals, Tarraleah has always been a convenient, budget stop over for those wanting to wet a line for trout. Now its new entrepreneurial hosts offer a first rate spanking too!

After all, physical discomfort is nothing new to fly fishers - heat stress, hypothermia and food deprivation are common complaints, not to mention exposure and a splash or two of cold water down the waders. What better way to end a day of suffering and humiliation on the lakes than to return to Fetish Manor for a bit of slap and tickle. And, the new thigh boots, fly vest and trusty balaclava will be money well spent, even if you haven't bagged a

fish.

Whip cracking and fly casting surely have a lot in common and we have all had to resort to a bit of blind flogging. Our stories are full of screaming runs, bust offs and back lashes. There are vises and suggestive ties. There's the Madam X, Mrs. Simpson, and Hairy Mary and we've all handled Nymphs, Boobies, Baby Dolls, Blondes and Fancies. When the going gets tough we experiment with Dominators, Seaducers, Deceivers, Persuaders and Teasers or try Stimulators, Suspenders and Thongs.

Fly fishing is undeniably about pain and pleasure, power and Passion if you can get a good cup of tea there as well, Tarraleah Village, Tasmania may well become the perfect fly fishing destination for hard-core enthusiasts. 🍷

--Tom Lucas

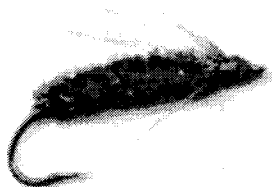


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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## THE PEABODY

HOOK:	Tiemco 200R - Sizes 18 to 12
THREAD:	Olive or Gray - 6/0
BODY:	Four to Six Peacock Herls
RIB:	Fine Copper Wire - Counter Wrapped Over the Herl Body
HACKLE:	Brown Hen Hackle - Tied Wet Style



1. Wrap the hook shank with a layer of thread. Tie in the Peacock Herl at the hook bend. Tie in the Copper Wire ribbing at the bend. Tie in the Brown Hackle behind the eye leaving sufficient room to wrap the hackle and make a head. Wrap the Peacock Herl body. Counter wrap the ribbing, creating segmentation. Tie off and cut the excess herl and copper wire. Don't crowd the head area, remember you need room to wrap the hackle and make a head.

2. Wrap several turns of hackle forming a collar behind the eye. Make a neat head with the wrapping thread and whip finish. Apply head cement.

If you can't tie this one you should be in the beginning fly tying class!!

This fly was featured in the Winter 2002 issue of FLY TYER magazine. It has features I like. First, it has only three materials, besides the hook. Second, it has only three tying steps. It also is tied with one of my favorite tying materials - Peacock Herl.

Peacock Herl is, in my opinion, the best fish catching tying material available. Lastly, it certainly is not a challenge to tie. The fly, which is an offshoot from the Brown Hackle Peacock, was developed by Capt. Bob Rodgers who has caught fish of many species and in many waters.

I have not used the Peabody, but it looks like it would compete with many of the other peacock herl flies I like, such as the Prince Nymph, the Zug Bug, the Renegade, the Dirty Rat, the Royal Coachman, and some midge patterns just to name a few. Tie some in sizes 14 and 16, try them and let me know how they work.

Note: No matter how tying techniques are learned, by self teaching, tying classes, written instructions or tying videos, success will not be accomplished without putting time in on your vise. It takes good materials, determination, desire and a lot of practice to become a good tyer. I sure wish I had more time!!

Tom Smith





## **From the FFF Clubwire News**

by Leigh West of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club

### **Presenting the Fly to Fish in Shallow Water**

**Y**ou're wading the Tampa Bay flats on a cool overcast morning in late December. The wind finally dies down, the water becomes glass calm, and redfish tails start waving in the air like flags a short distance ahead. Will you be prepared to make the delicate presentations necessary to avoid spooking them? The following suggestions might help you in your quest for the perfect presentation.

On the forward cast, throw the line with a trajectory parallel to the water's surface. Allow the entire fly line to fall gently to the water, rather than aiming the fly directly at the fish. Once the line stops traveling forward, the entire fly line and fly should fall at the same rate and parallel with the water surface.

Try throwing the forward cast slightly upward from a low position. As the fly approaches the target, drop the tip of the rod to the water, so that the line closest to

you touches first. The line should roll out across the water surface. The fly will enter the water last.

Try varying the size of the loop on the forward cast. A larger loop may not be good for long casts, but one can avoid a few tangles as well as reduce line speed, improving presentation.

If you are on fish and need to re-cast, begin the backcast slowly so that the fly line is moving before it clears the water and before beginning the backcast in earnest. This allows one to clear the line and fly from the water silently. Reposition the fly as above.

Shoot the fly to the fish rather than carrying line above the fish. Try to keep the fly line close to the water so the fish doesn't see it. Keep your arms and hands in close to your body and the rod low when casting to fish that are close. It's not

uncommon to hook redfish with barely any of the fly line out of the rod tip (as close as 15-20 feet from one's feet)!

In addition to casting techniques, the fly line (weight, taper and other physical properties), leader (weight, taper, length) as well as the fly (shape, size and materials) can all affect presentation. Calm conditions and shallow water might mean dropping down to a lighter rod and line weight as well as using a longer leader and smaller, lighter fly.

When fishing a flat, practice these presentation techniques on various targets while waiting for fish to appear. This will allow you to get your range and presentation under control under the actual fishing conditions encountered.

Good fishing!



## **FLY ROD BUILDING CLASS**

**Want to learn to build your own custom fly rod?**

**Come and join the SDFP for a class in March, on Tuesday nights.**

**The class will be limited to 10, so sign up soon.**

**If you are interested call Ron Meler at**



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## I Just Don't Understand That Elitist Label

Seven of us sat in front of the building that would crawl with kids eager to learn fly fishing the next day, but the discussion had gone past the kids and now focused on considering how people could consider fly fishers elitist.

"What the hell *does* elitist mean?"

"I think it's a golf ball, or is that Titleist?"

"I'll show them elitist" Joe said. As he lifted his leg and pretended to light a lighter near his butt.

This was most of the hard-core of the MAC Council of FFF, the people who come to the events and get the work done-and have fun

Joe was in a squared tailed, especially unstylish shirt with a bandana on his head that looked like it was left over from the depression. Don was in shorts and sandals and a T-shirt. Doug, Mike, Norm and Bob were all in shorts, two of them in ball caps, and I was in Khaki pants and a shirt. The only sign of expensive equipment was my Orvis hat but I have the excuse that it is the only fishing hat I can find that is big enough. But maybe my head is so big because it is filled with elitist ideas.

The beverage of choice is a rather coarse beer from one of the oldest breweries in Pennsylvania, something akin to what Coors once was in Colorado, and Moose Drool is in the holy lands of Montana. The dinner was chili, corn bread and a taco salad, all fixed by the guys. The talk was also about the side effects we might expect from the food that night and whether this might keep the mosquitoes away.

There was no discussion of fine wines or

of distant places we had fished in other countries-none of us had managed such fishing boondoggles. We talked of great fishing right there in the vast waters of Pennsylvania, which is second only to Alaska in miles of moving water.

The weekend was the result of hard work, especially by Joe, first to establish the kid's school and then get things ready to go. Tomorrow we would have maybe two dozen adults, and about the same number of kids. It would be a great ratio for teaching. Work. Not leisure. Doesn't sound like elitism to me.

We also covered conservation issues, bringing back area streams, and saving ones that are still fairly healthy. We talked about the economic effects of fly fishing and how fly fishers contribute to local economies.

I have a hard time seeing the elitist label being placed on most of the fly fishers I know or have fished with. (An elitist, by the way, would have said, "With whom I have fished.")

Oh, there are some out there undoubtedly who could fit the label, those guys with all the latest gear who brag about all the wonderful fishing they have had in all the great and exotic waters they have fished. Most of those guys are all show and when you fish with them they always seem to catch fewer fish and enjoy their fishing less than the rest of us.

Are they the good ones? Show offs and braggarts are found in all kinds of fishing. If they are the good ones, maybe that old adage should be changed to "one good apple can spoil the whole bunch".

Normal people looking in on a strange group of fishermen wearing rubber boots up to their chests, waving long sticks with feathers on the end of the line I guess could see us as a bit different, but I am not sure that is the same as elitist. Maybe they don't understand. Yes, I am sure that's part of it.


The fly fishers I know best work at their sport. They work at their skills to develop them, and they work to save streams that are dying. They work to help kids to learn to appreciate the sport and the environment. They donate a lot of time and some money, to help others and the world we live in.

Does that make them elitist? No. It means they care enough to do things and means they are unselfish enough to leave fish for others to catch. Again an old adage: "leave more firewood in the pile than you found in it."

Most of the fly fishers I know are givers, and givers are the type of people I like and respect most. Thieves and most politicians are takers. Poachers are takers.

The kids coming in the morning eager to learn this sport, and the parents who care enough to bring them, are the kinds of people I want to know. Let's see now; laughter, hard work, caring, sharing, making the world a little better than we found it. Based on my upbringing, those are good things.

I just don't understand that elitist label.

(by Michael R. Fisher, FFF VP of Communications) 



## Buying A Nu2u Rod

**S**ome things to ponder prior to purchasing a new2u fly rod. Foremost, on what fish and water will the rod be used? Consider your strength and coordination. What is your fishing experience? Correct choice of line weight, rod length and action depend on this evaluation.

You want a good casting and fish fighting tool. You want good value for your money. So, what makes a quality rod? Generally speaking the more expensive the rod, the better the quality of material used in the guides, reel seat, and grip.

For guides, a rule of thumb is one guide, not including the tip-top, for each foot of rod length. Fewer guides permit the line to sag and slap on the rod, creating more friction when casting. There is a right size for guides, too.

Very small guides will create more friction and very large guides will permit more sag and slapping. The number of stripping guides varies. Lighter weight rods need only one stripping guide, while heavier weight rods should be equipped with two.

Should you have an up- or downlocking reel seat? Most fisher people prefer uplocking. If you wish to hold your rod near the reel, a downlocking seat subjects your hand to agitation at the juncture of the cork and the reel seat.

On heavier weight rods it is nice to have a double locking screw system.

Cork is preferred for the handle, as theoretically it feels warmer in cold weather and cooler in warm weather. Cork

doesn't get overly slick when wet, and it has great cushioning properties. Check the cork for quality. Are there any soft or loose spots? The less filler, the better.

Shape and size of the handle are a matter of personal preference. Is the grip sized right and comfortably shaped for your hand for casting and fish fighting?

Next consider the workmanship and overall aesthetics of the rod. Most manufacturers polish their rods upon removal from the furnaces to eliminate any rough spots and the thread used to hold the graphite on the mandrels. (One company does not polish their rods. Know which company that is?)

Well-epoxyed, short, thread wraps extending just off the foot of the guides is the order of the day. The more thread and epoxy, the more weight, which dampens the rod's action.

Speaking of which, I recommend that one check the action of the rod. Most people pick up a rod and shake it several times, and that is that. Here's the way to really learn something about the rod. Hold the rod firmly, parallel to the floor, and whip the rod with some vigor. Watch where the rod flexes the most. If the rod bends in the upper one-third, you know that the rod is considered fast action; in the middle, it is medium action. If the rod bends down into the butt section, and you can even feel the handle bend in your hand, you know that the action of the rod is considered slow.

When you have a likely candidate, give it the real test. Take the rod, equipped with reel and line, to a pond for some casting,

and check for these qualities. (Fishing is not a good way to make these evaluations.)

Start with balance. Is the fully equipped rod tip heavy or butt heavy? Cast the rod for feel. Does the action suit your casting stroke? The rod should perform a number of tasks well.

Test it thoroughly. Roll cast. Pick up thirty-five feet of line from the water and lay it out in a different direction. See that it mends and controls line on the water easily and accurately.

Turn over a leader with a large fly, and present it with some delicacy at long distances.


Will the rod deliver a fly accurately seventy feet and beyond? Does it shoot line easily?

Will the rod load sufficiently with thirty to thirty-five feet of line off the rod tip for quick pick up and shoot?

Try to form tight loops to get line speed and distance. Does the rod generate high speed for quick, powerful delivery into the wind?

Is there enough strength in the butt section to pressure a running fish? Could you cast repeatedly for long periods without fatigue?

If in your opinion the rod fulfills all the above criteria, then just possibly you have found the rod that is for you.

(by Wayne Taylor of the Peninsula Fly Fishers of Belmont, California, courtesy of the FFF ClubWire Email Newswire) 





## FOR SALE

Sage 379 LL, 7'9", 2-piece, 3 wt. \$150

Loomis GL2, 9', 2-piece, 7 wt. \$100

T&T Horizon HS907, 9', 2-piece, 7 wt.  
\$275

All rods are excellent to pristine  
condition.

e-mail Tom Lucas at

(that's an "L" not a "1" after tom)

OR

call at

*Cutoff date for March FINNY FACTS  
articles---Friday February 14th*

Send articles to:  
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,  
5415 Lodi Place  
San Diego, CA 92117  
858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at [finnyfacts@lycos.com](mailto:finnyfacts@lycos.com) Thanks!!

Send change of address information or  
Club membership renewal to:

Gordie Zimm

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Winners of the:

### GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the flyfishing 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
- 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
- 2002 -Larry Sorensen



**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS  
2003 OFFICERS**

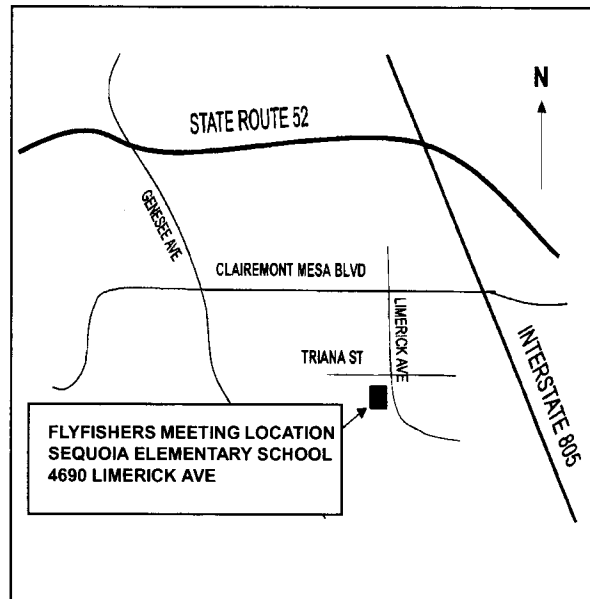
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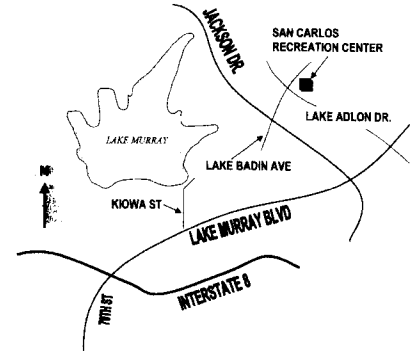


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**Web Page-** David Collins  
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com  
**Women's Education Focus-**  
Gretchen Yearous

**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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