

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

DECEMBER 2009

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 14, No. 12

December Meeting

Local Guide to Speak on Blue Sharks

The December membership meeting speaker is Captain **Jeff Stock** out of Mission Bay. Jeff grew up in



San Diego County doing what most of us like doing best : Fishing in the rivers, lakes, bays and ocean. Deciding to be a fishing guide Jeff acquired his Captains License and now guides on his own boat on San Diego's bays as well as the Pacific for big offshore pelagics. In the winter months Jeff concentrates on local blue sharks which he likes to call " Winter Blues ". Jeff will show and describe the correct gear, flies, chumming, and where to find them.

--Gary Farrar

**Don't forget to sign
up for the annual
Stroud Banquet
held on
January 4, 2010**

Bamboo Cane Rod Builder's Conclave

A fish tale by Lucky Ketcham

Morning and afternoon rain showers may have dampened the bamboo rod enthusiasts this year as they gathered on the long lawns of the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum, but it did not dampen their spirits. Their eyes sparkled as they examined the antique Hardy reels and silk lines. Their hearts pounded when they had the opportunity to cast the fine crafted rods. You could not wipe the smiles off some of their faces. I attended only a few hours of the two day event and only hope that I did not catch the bamboo flu or cane addiction. I can't afford another layer of fly fishing crazy.



**Vista, CA Cane Rod Builder,
Bob Stewart & Lucky K**

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, December 7, 2009
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)

Mike and Helen Grundler

Thank You, Mona Morebello

My brother, Frank drove me the 45 minutes up into the Catskill Mountains from our little farm in Otisville. The Livingston Manor / Roscoe area is always about two weeks ahead of the seasons because of the change in altitude. It is cooler here and some of the trees along the rivers are already starting the fall color change. I still can't get over how all the little abandoned farms along the Quickway have

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: DECEMBER 2009

Another year has come to an end. This is my last letter for 2009 and a time to thank the members who have made this a very good year.

Despite an uncertain economy, our annual raffle was a great success. I can't say enough about

Jonathan Hee this year's raffle chairperson. Jonathan almost single handedly put together over 100

terrific gifts. Working with Jon behind the scenes were **Gary Strawn, Jon Holland** and can we not forget our Master of Ceremonies **Jim Tenuto**.

Where would we be without **Mona & Sam Morebello, Maria Goldman** and **Bill Stock**. Sam and Mona coordinate the setup and breaking down of our meeting place. Maria provides the coffee and goodies for the meetings. Bill Stock, our new Video Librarian, stepped up to fill the vacancy left by our long time Librarian, **John Beckstrand**.

Many thanks to our two unofficial greeters and monthly raffle ticket sellers, **Tom Lucas** and **C.T. "Ted" Reinert**. Without fail, they sit at the back of the room every month happily taking our money.

Special thanks to the following directors and volunteers:

Lucky Ketcham, our membership chairperson, signs up new members and answers questions regarding

membership. Lucky is also the driving force behind the Thursday night fly tying congress.

Wayne Allen, our treasurer, keeps a tight hold of the purse strings and always asks if we really need to spend that much money.

Alan Thompson, our monthly raffle chairperson, the man with many hats.

Jon Holland, for his generous donation of a

bamboo fly rod and those who donated gifts and gift certificates to the annual raffle.

Lee McElravy provided an interesting line-up of great speakers and programs.

Larry Sorensen and **Art Reifman**, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, who helped in day-to-day operations of the club.

Dave Collins, our Web Master and moderator of the SDFF Forum. He is also filling in as the Green River travel chairperson.

Kim Jones, for her many years of work getting the information out with her e-mail tree.

Barry Pechersky, the go-to-guy when the club needs a hand getting something done.

Roger and Rose Yamasaki, if not for their efforts you would not be reading this fantastic newsletter.

Ned Sewell, Ken Armer, Marving Darling, Lee Anderson, Floyd Lee, Shelley Wagner and Jon Kaston, the Sunday morning casting crew, our club's biggest recruiters of new members.

Jim Castelluzzo and **Louie Zimm** for their time and effort making Day at the Docks a success.

To our Chollas Lake Lend-A-Rod volunteers, I can't thank you enough. Each Sunday you provided rods, reels, bait and instruction to hundreds of children. Thanks again **Lee Anderson, Dan McKirnan, Dick Mount, Robert Pharoah & Bob Stafford**. While on the subject of Chollas Lake, thank you to all who volunteered at the annual **Star/Pal** fishing derby and especially **Joe Bain** for his continuing work at Chollas.

Last but not least, **Bill Stroud** for his continuing support of our club.

If I missed someone I should have thanked, I apologize. The individuals I have mentioned in this letter deserve your thanks. They have given their time to make this a better club.

To the 25+ new members that joined the club this year, thank you for choosing San Diego Fly Fishers. I want to encourage you to get involved (i.e. join us at the Stroud Banquet, volunteer, assist one of the committee chairs.)

We are looking for fresh faces to



PAUL WOOLERY





**San Diego Fly Fishers
Annual "STROUD" Banquet
Monday January 4th 2010
6:30 to 9:00 PM**

**Admiral Baker Clubhouse
U.S. Navy Recreation Center**

(just off Friars Road, approximately 1 mile east of Qualcomm Stadium)

**Come celebrate another successful year
for San Diego Fly Fishers.**

**The price is only \$25 per person for a great buffet dinner
in a beautiful and convenient setting.**

The \$25 price includes a door prize ticket!

Sign-up at a meeting, at Stroud Tackle or mail to:

**San Diego Fly Fishers, Attn Stroud Banquet
10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd., #327
San Diego, CA 92124**

**Please make your reservations prior to December 21
Spouses and guests are welcome!**



FLY OF THE MONTH

Lady McConnell and Tom Thumb

Lady McConnell



Tom Thumb



The "Raccoon" is similar to the Lady McConnell. It has the fine grizzly hackle tip as a shuck, but lacks the hackle at the front of the fly. The Tom Thumb is another good variation on this deer hair dry fly. SDFF member, Jim Brown has found the little **Tom Thumb** patterns useful in the coves of Lake Murray when midges are hatching and the Swallows are skimming the water. Use it as an alternative to the small Adams and black gnat patterns.

- Hook:** Dry Fly, TMC 100 or light wire dry fly, 18 to 16 for the midge, 16 to 12 for the caddisfly.
- Thread:** Black 8/0
- Tail/Shuck:** Fine narrow tips of a grizzly rooster hackle. Take hair like hackle from behind the head.
- Gills:** Peter Patricelli added two small tufts of white poly yarn at the base of tail as an option.
I have never seen gills filaments on this pattern before.
- Shell back:** Fine coastal deer hair for midge, fatter hair can be used for caddis.
- Body:** Black thread on midge, black fine dubbing on the larger patterns.
- Hackle:** None on the Raccoon or Tom Thumb. Grizzly rooster hackle on the Lady McConnell.
- Wing:** None on the Raccoon or Lady McConnell. Fine deer hair tips for Tom Thumb.

These are pretty simple little flies. The hardest part is to select the right hair for the size of fly and get the length of deer hair correct for the shell back and wing on the Tom Thumb. The hair tips are cut for the Raccoon making it even easier. This is a good pattern to practice thread control and "soft pinch loops" to prevent the "thread torque" from pulling the deer hair bundle to the far side of the hook.

Pinch the barb and mount the hook in the vise. Attach the thread with a jam knot at the $\frac{3}{4}$ shank mark.

(We use the knot to remember where to stop the body and not crowd the head.) Make a smooth thread base to the bend. Select a very thin grizzly rooster hackle from the smallest feathers on a cape. Attach the hackle by the base at the bend of the hook. If you are a fanatic, try to make it lay flat on the water, shiny side up, concave or dull side down. There should only be one shank length extending to the rear. This black and white hackle represents the segmented empty shuck of the midge. The Tom Thumb uses a few hair fibers for the shuck. This pattern represents one of the stillborne midges that can not escape from its

continued on next page



Fly of the Month

continued from previous page

shuck. Peter Petricelli added two small tufts of white poly yarn tied with X wraps at the bend of the hook. Trim the few fibers of yarn very short, maybe 1/16 inch.

This step is optional. I have never seen it on other Racoon or Tom Thumb patterns. It is good to be creative, and to see if a minor change improves an old pattern.

It pays to have a few varieties of deer hair and light elk to choose from. This little fly wants to float like an Egyptian papyrus reed boat. If the hair is too fine and hard it will not float well. If you use a pithy light elk hair for the midge it might be too fat and look like a caddis. Definetely use the elk for the larger size 14 to 10 patterns. The midge needs a medium coastal deer hair or a fine elk hair. The hair needs to be long enough for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 shank lengths for the Tom Thumb. The tips are trimmed on the Racoon and Lady Mc. Select and clean the underfur from a small bundle of hair, you probably only need 20 hairs for a small midge. Stack the deer hair to even the tips. The length of the hair bundle will vary on these folded hair bodies, depending on how fat you make the underbody. A thin little midge might have the length be 2.5, while a larger size 12 Tom Thumb might need a full 3 shank lengths to get the wing length correct. Since we are making a size 18 midge pattern with no wing, it is easier. Trim the butts of the hair bundle even at 2.5 shank length. Bring the thread back to the $\frac{3}{4}$ hook shank spot. Place the tight bundle on top of the hook with the butts at the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark, fine tips extending to the rear. Use a soft pinch loop wrap or two to capture the butts of the hair. Pull the thread bobbin straight down or straight up while holding the bundle securely on top of the hook. If you just wrapped it, the thread torque would want to move the bundle of hair. Make a few more tight wraps. Now practic your thread control and make looser thread wraps toward the bend of the hook. You want this fly to float. Make tight wraps again at the bend of the hook, just in front of the little white gills. A half hitch knot never hurts at this point. Make sure you

go all the way to the bend of the hook. A common mistake of this fly and its cousin the Humpy is not to go far enough back, or to make the end wraps too loose. The error will be evident when you fold the deer hair forward. You will see too much tread at the hook bend.

The little midge patterns usually have a black thread or silk under body. Larger patterns may add silk or fine dry fly dubbing. I like to rib or segment midges. I might add a white or yellow 6/0 thread a this step and hang it to the rear while making a smooth black thread body to the hook eye. Keep it thin on the midge pattern. Spiral wrap the white thread forward with 4 or 5 wraps. Tie off and trim the rib. Bring the thread bobbin back to just in front of the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark in preparation for the fold. Grap the tips of the hair bundle and manipulate the hairs into a tight group. Some people twist the hair bundle a little to tighten it up. I like all the fibers to be straight and parrallel. Pull and fold the shell back forward and make two soft pinch wraps at the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark. Pull on the hair bundle keeping all the hairs on top of the hook shank, while you pull on the thread straight up or straight down. Now make two tight wraps on top of each other. Pull up the wing and make a small thread dam in front to prop up the fibers. Make one or two half hitches behind the eye and relax.

At this point the pattern changes with the type of fly. For the Racoon, just clip the deer hair short as a small head. Whip finish and you are done.

For the Lady McConnell, clip the deer hair short, add a grizzly rooster hackle and make 4 or 5 wraps. Trim the excess hackle and whip finish.

For the Tom Thumb, flare the fine deer hair tips into a fan shape and whip finish. (If you added a hackle and make three wraps behind the wing and three wraps in front, you will have a small Humpy.)

Add dry fly floatant to these flies to help them float.

--Lucky



We Are Now Collecting Membership Dues for 2010

The dues remain at \$35 single and \$45 family. Members do not need to file a renewal application, unless there are changes to their records. A single check made out to SDDF can be sent to

Lucky Ketcham

or to the new club mail box.

Members can expect a regular annual billing sometime in October. There is a promotion to bring friends and family into the club. New member names will be added into a drawing for a rod and reel at the Stroud Banquet. The new member may provide the name of an existing member that recruited them or influenced them into joining the club. That name will be placed into a special drawing for \$50. Many of the newest members have not selected or provided a name for that special drawing. There may be a benefit for taking a new member under your wing. Take a friend fishing. Make new friends.

Lucky

President's Message

continued from page 2

volunteer and work in a new travel committee. Committee members are **David Collins, Dick Mount, Bob Stafford and Bob Pharoah.** The committee is looking for new ideas, people interested in camping and fishing trips, family related trips, new fishing spots and returning to some old familiar places. Please contact one of the committee members if you are interested in volunteering or have suggestions.

Our December meeting will feature **Jeff Stock** from the San Diego Fly Shop. It should be a very interesting evening.

From my family to yours, have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy and prosperous New Year!

Tight Lines



Annual Fly Fishers Trip to Bishop

Arrangements have been made with Tom Loe for three boats and four guides for the sixth of March 2010. Reservations for six rooms at the Elms Motel are also made.

For more information or to reserve a slot call or e-mail Dick Mount at



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.

Bamboo Cane Rod

continued from page 1

reverted back to 30 foot trees and forest. After living in dry southern California for 45 years the bright green of a wet year, New York mountain range is almost shocking. I am sure the shaded streams and the reduction of active farms has improved the fish habitat. When I left the Catskills we were reading Rachael Carlson's Silent Spring, thinking about pesticide pollution,

fertilizers, runoff from plowed fields and the failing septic systems of the 2,000 small hotels and resorts. Now 45 years later, the Clean Water Act is in place, many or most of the hotels have closed and most of the farms are now forest. Who could have predicted the change? The doom and gloom pessimists of the 60's would be shocked to see an improvement. Now we have to figure how to get all those people in urban New York and New Jersey to stop using so much of our water. Drink beer.

The cane rod builders were drinking a few good beers, snacking on the foods and showing how life should be lived. I missed the evening events and the wine tasting. I am sure the crowd was much livelier in the evening. One of my brother's friends, Erin Phelan was sporting a nice tattoo of a rainbow trout, in a wonderful location abover her ample cleavage. We found it was only a Sharpie Color pen illustration ob-

tained at the previous night's dinner party and social gathering. My brother does not know when to attend these events to really learn the details and secrets of rod build-

not resist trying a 5-weight, antique Thomas and Thomas rod with fine silk woven line.

The rod was indeed "Sweet." Mike Cananico brought several of his antique Thomas and Thomas bamboo rods for members to try. Others brought cane rods they recently built for the experts to critique and give advice for improvements. The light crowd allowed me to take turns



Erin with trout tatoo, made with colored Sharpie Pens for the event.

ing. Perhaps he knows and was only sheltering his elder brother.

We also missed the morning casting contests. The winners were laying out more than 90 feet of silk line on the green lawn and the cane rods were performing like the best of the distance casting graphites. By the time we arrived, the crowd had about 75 to 100 people scattered under the tents, in the education center and museum. Groups of mostly older men were positioned along the long green casting lawn. Wooden rod holders were placed in each of three sections where rod builders could place their new tapers or antique treasures for others to cast and admire. I was a little intimidated watching some of the graceful casting strokes and long lines laid out. I hate to embarrass myself with some of my casting abilities. I could

casting various rods and the audience was supportive. They only laughed once or twice when my casting loop collapsed when I lost the line on the double haul. I enjoyed the small light rods and then moved down to the 8 weight steelhead rods. One of the experienced rod builders from H.L. Leonard Rods had a



hollow cane rod that everyone was marveling at. He said it was the first time he tried to make this hollow butt section version. It was lighter than

continued on next page



Bamboo Cane Rod

continued from previous page

expected and could easily cast in the 70 to 80 foot range, even for me. I never did get down to the two hand spey rod area. There was a very good Asian caster in that section. My Snake Roll and Single Hand

Spey Casting needs much more work before I would try to cast in front of this crowd.

Link to HL Leonard fly rods— <http://www.hlleonard.com/catalog.shtml>

One of the big attractions of the afternoon was a demonstration of machining and sizing the metal ferrels used to connect the rod sections. Two machinists from Divine Rods set up their lathe and rollers under the big pavillion. The attentive crowd gathered to learn some of the secrets.

<http://www.newdivinerods.com/>

I did not have the time to watch and still see the museum. The timing was great because I was in the comfort of the museum when the big afternoon down pour arrived. The heavy rain rattled on the roof top while I looked at the new exhibitions of Japanese Fly Tying, Ladies in Fly Fishing and all the historical displays of cane rod building. I never fail to enjoy the museum. I could have stayed and read all the little details for the full 4 hours of the visit. Our friend, Erin Phelan works at the museum and promised sometime she would show us some of the archived

materials and back scene work.

There was a tent of exhibitors with



new and used items for sale. I tried to keep my wallet secured but it is hard when hackles and hooks are on sale. Luckily my suit case can't accommodate a new fly rod. I think I could have fit one of those small curved Japanese landing nets into my back pack but I was able to resist the purchase. One of the popular tables had a large stack of used bamboo rod tips for \$2 each. One man was happy to find two matching tips that fit his old fly rod. They had the same decorations on the silver nickle rod ferrules. There were antique reels, fly lines, books, cork, fine hard wood reel seats and even flies for sale. The poor fly display cases got a little wet during the rain storm.

Two items from the Japanese Fly Tying and Fly Fishing exhibit in the museum. This little minnow made with almost clear pearl braid looks like a winner to me. The visible internal organs make it very realistic of little glass minnows.

Cane rod builders came

from all over the world for this event. I was surprised to find our rod building instructor from Palomar College, in Vista, CA, was there. Others came from New Zealand, England and Scotland. The Scots seemed to be

centered in the Spey rod section.

Link to Catskill Fly Tyer's Guild - <http://flyfishingnetwork.com/CatskillFlyGuild/welcome.html>

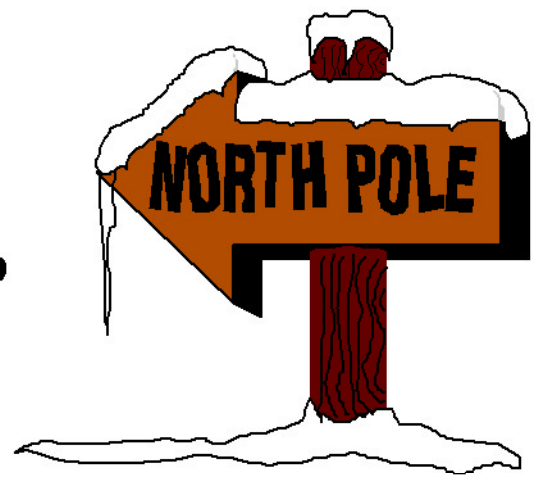
Link to the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum: <http://www.cffcm.net/>

Link to Bob Stewart's website <http://stewartbamboorods.com/instruction.html>

Stewart Bamboo Rods
1778 York View Cr.
Vista, CA 92084
(760)732-1002
bstew22@cox.net
info@stewartbamboorods.com



Ho-Ho-Ho...

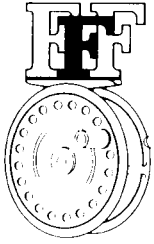


North Pole greetings to everyone who volunteered to be a 2010 SDFF Meeting Host or Substitute. Your name will be put on **Santa's "A List!"**

A 2010 schedule of Hosts, Subs and "How to set-up details" will appear in the January *Finny Facts*.

Merry...Merry...Merry

Mona Morebello (Head Elf)



From the FFF Clubwire News

Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers Club Newsletter

A Trio of Tips

A: Leader construction tips -

If your fly line doesn't have a built-in loop, make a small loop and do two nail knots with 10 or 15 pound test monofilament next to each other to secure the loop. A loop in the butt section of your leader will make a loop-to-loop connection allowing quick changes when needed.

How do you determine what size, diameter or pound test, for your leaders butt section? Energy from the fly line should be transferred to the leader efficiently. Hot glue the end of the line to the leader and see if they bend equally when creating a "U," holding line in one hand and leader in the other. If they do, you have selected the perfect butt section. For most inshore saltwater applications, try 40 pound test. Different manufactures will have a wide variety of stiffness.

—Pat Damico

B: Things to remember while fly fishing -

When fishing, remember to keep your rod tip down near the water or even under water and inch or so.

This will promote stripe strikes and keep slack from the line when starting your next back cast.

When I get tired and my casts start to show it, I have found that shortening my cast stroke and letting the rod do the work helps. I focus on casting with the tip of the rod with a more concise arm movement. As Mel Krieger taught us, just bend the rod and stop the rod for a good cast.

— Walt Durkin

C: Lost Leaders -

Leaders are easy to make and customize. Years ago, I bought 1/4 pound spools of Ande 50, 40, 30, 25, 20, 15, 12 and 10 pound test monofilament. The spools are stored in foam drink coozies for 12 ounce cans (they are usually free at boat shows and advertise something). The spools are placed in the coozies with the label upward so the test strength of the line is easily read. The coozies keep the line from unraveling. All the coozies are kept in a drawer which keeps leader materials together. The exception to the coozies and the drawer of leader

supplies is my flats pack. A couple 1/4 pound spools of line will quickly fill a small flats pack. An alternative is to purchase small Ziploc bags (I bought a wide variety of sizes at one of the flea markets years ago). I peel off 10 yards or so of each weight and keep them in the small Ziploc bags. The test of the line can be marked on each bag with a permanent marker. The small Ziploc bags can be kept in the next larger size bag just to keep everything neat and organized.

I use a blood knot which is easy to tie and streamlined for casting. Building your own leaders allows the angler flexibility in the length and test of the leaders as well as the ability to do on-the-water repairs. The leaders can use a perfection loop or non-slip loop knot if a loop to loop system is used. I tie the leader with a modified nail knot directly to the fly line for most of my flats applications and then rebuild as required.

Leader recipes are the subject for an entire article. In an effort to be concise, I will add that on most of my flats leaders, the bite tippet is fluorocarbon.

— Steve Parker



Recipients of the
Stroud Award
 2004-Jim Brown
 2005-Allen Greenwood
 2006- Hugh Marx
 2007- Mike Rivkin
 2008- Bill Van Wulven



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.

Cutoff date for **January FINNY FACTS**
 articles---Friday December 11th.

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

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

Send change of address information,signup for
 electronic version of newsletter, or Club mem-
 bership renewal to:

Lucky Ketcham

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For unselfish and outstanding service
 to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2000-Tom Smith
1992-Bob Camp	2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2002-Larry Sorensen
1994-Ed Velton	2003-Jim Tenuto
1995-Bob Wisner	2004-Joe Bain
1996-Gary Hilbers	2005-Jim Reeg
1997-Jack Bentley	2006-John Kasten
1998-Gordie Zimm	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1999-Gretchen Yearous	2008-Louie Zimm



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2009 OFFICERS

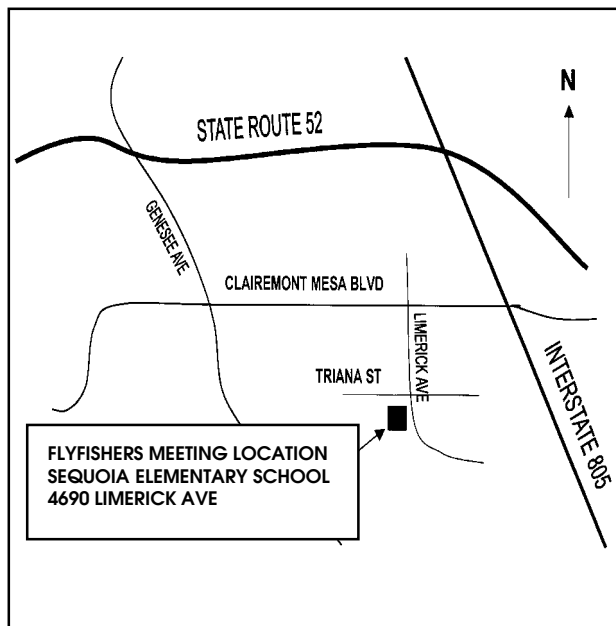
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 5415 Lodi Place, San Diego
 92117, 858-274-2712
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Rod Building-
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 www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
SDFF E-mail tree-
 Kim Jones,

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.



San Diego Flyfishers
10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd. #327
San Diego, CA 92124

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**San Diego
 Fly Fishers**

*Official Chapter of
 Federation of Fly Fishers*

SINCE 1962