**NOVEMBER 2010** 

Volume 15, No. 11

## In Memoriam



**Jack Bentley** 11/6/31--10/13/10

Iconic, long time member of the San Diego Fly Fishers passed away on October 13, 2010.

A tribute to Jack is on page 4.

## MEETING NOTICE

Monday, November 1, 2010 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)

> Jon Holland and **Gary Strawn**

Thank You, Mona Morebello

## FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

## "BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!"

ur friends at Golden State Fly Casters / T.U. Chapter 920 are working on a project to genetically identify native steal head trout in Southern California Streams. They asked SDFF for volunteers to help, and many of you at the October meeting signed up to help on local streams. Wednesday morning October 13, I met with Sandi Jacobson, Frank Kawasaki, Skip Price, Dean Schulze and Wavne Johnson to sample Boulder Creek on the headwaters of the San Diego River, just below Lake Cuyamaca. There is a good location where Boulder Creek road crosses the stream. SDFF volunteers had worked with Allen Greenwood and DFG to stock trout there, several years ago. It is a beautiful spot and has water year round with deep pools for trout to survive through the summers.

Sandi gave us detailed instructions on handling, measuring and taking genetic samples (small clipping from the upper tail fin) of any trout we caught. GPS coordinates and photos were to be taken for each sample and the data recorded on a small envelope with the sample inside. We hoped to return all fish unharmed. After a thorough safety brief and some discussion about rattlesnakes, poison oak, heat stress



**GARY STRAWN** 

and dehydration, we split into two groups. I led a team upstream while Sandi, Frank and Skip started near the road crossing.

We hadn't finished stringing up when Sandi called on the walkie talkie to say Skip had been bitten by a rattlesnake. It only took a few minutes to get back to their location, but Skip was already unconscious and having difficulty breathing. Sandi had found one spot where her phone worked to call 911. I ran to the stream to help Frank get Skip up out of the water. Per the 911 operator we were trying to keep his body slightly elevated and his airway open. Wayne brought some wet towels to try to keep Skip cool. Soon we realized that Skip had stopped breathing. Wayne checked for a pulse then began CPR. Luckily, Wayne has extensive medical training and works

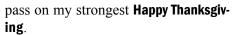
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: NOVEMBER 2010

**LARRY SORENSEN** 

he holiday season is upon us and this month we give thanks. I am most thankful for the many friends and acquaintances, in the fly fishing community, I have gathered

during the last ten months. I must admit, I have taken advantage of every opportunity to expose myself to as many fly fishing experiences as possible. So, to those who have had to put up with my curiosity, persistence, and yes, some stubbornness, I



Once again, the **Day at the Beach** was a complete success. Twenty, or so,

club members rose with the chickens and headed to South Mission Beach. The surf was kelp heavy, but fish were caught and breakfast was served. A hearty thanks to **Paul Woolery** for

setting up his tear-drop trailer...it is the perfect galley for such an outing. Plans are to do more of these like adventures next year.

Have you purchased your ticket for the **Stroud Banquet**? It will be

another night to remember. **Paul Woolery** and

Gary Strawn have organized a great evening with a sit-down dinner and plenty of surprises. If you have yet to attend this event, I strongly encourage you to get your ticket and enjoy the festivities.

Once again, a reminder...if you have a strong candidate for the annual **Stroud Award**, please contact **Jim Reeg.** The nominee need not be a club member, but at least one of the sponsors,
MUST be a current club member.

Our local waters are giving most anglers a great opportunity to catch, land, and release many varieties of fish on the fly. Get out and take advantage of the great weather conditions here in San Diego County.

I am headed to Idaho for a few days next month. My good friend and host, **Mr. Dick Dahlgren**, has some new water for me to fish near Boise...fishing report to follow. See you all at the next monthly meeting. Once again, Happy Thanksgiving!



October Meeting

## A Tribute to Skip Price

Plus Rattlesnake Safety

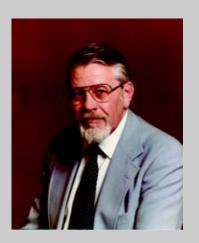
DFF member Lucky Ketcham will present a small tribute to fellow Golden State Flycaster Skip Price who succombed to a rattlesnake bite in the San Diego back country.

He will also provide a presentation on "Snakes and Snake Identification in Southern California".

Rattlesnakes are quite prevalent in our back country but rarely do we heed its deadly power. Skip's passing is a wake up call to all who tread the outback.

## Lloyd Jefferies Passed Away in July

Lloyd Jefferies lived on Mt. Helix in La Mesa. He was a friend and neighbor of Harold Kvaas. Hal said he was a quiet man that loved fly fishing. Lloyd would come to Lake Murray fly casting on occasion and contributed a few stories and laughs. We made him a Life Member in 2009 following his open heart surgery and when he could no longer attend meetings.









## San Diego Fly Fishers Annual "Stroud" Banquet

Monday January 10, 2011 6:30 to 9:00 PM Admiral Baker Clubhouse U.S. Navy Recreation Center

(just off Friars Road, Approximately 1 mile east of Qualcom Stadium)

Come celebrate another successful year for San Diego Fly Fishers

The cost is \$30 per person for a prime rib or salmon sit down dinner in a beautiful and convenient setting.

Door Prizes

New member drawing

Sign up at the November or December Meeting or mail check to San Diego Fly Fishers, Attn: Stroud Banquet 10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd., #327
San Diego, CA 92124
Spouses and guests are welcome!
No reservations accepted after December 23, 2010
No tickets sold at the door!

# Jn Memoriam Jack Bentley

Just a quick note to tell you that Jack Bentley passed away peacefully in his sleep early Wednesday morning. He was being cared for at a very special home near Alpine since I could no longer handle him at home. Jack was having lots of problems with his dementia, was very depressed and was ready to go. Although it is extremely painful for me and our family, I am thankful that he is no longer suffering and is in a better place. The San Diego Fly Fishers was an important part of Jack's life.

Thank you,
Rosemary Bentley





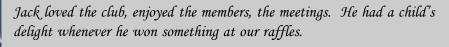




Jim Tenuto:

Jack Bentley was the San Diego Fly Fishers. A story teller and raconteur who also had a treasure of jokes. He used his legendary organizational skills to lead numerous club trips to blue ribbon streams around the Western United States. He treated your money like his money! He always got us the best deals, had each van or SUV organized like a military operation, even down to who was bunking with who. Attendance was mandatory on these trips for the last evening's dinner. There Jack would start the evening with "The Star Spangled Banner" and end it with "America the Beautiful." And these were the days prior to 9/11 when outward displays of patriotism and love of country might

just have easily been met with a cynical snort as a hearty approbation.



And who is going to wear those outlandish red plaid trousers and waistcoat he graced us with at every annual banquet?

God bless Jack Bentley.

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## Louie Zimm:

I have little to add except that he introduced Gordie and I to Saltery Lodge on Kodiak Island. Without him, many folks would never experienced the joy of fishing far-flung exotic locations.

He was a great organizer and trip researcher. He took great joy from being with all fisher folk. Getting everyone safely to and from those destinations could be like "herding cats" but Jack always wore a smile and was a perfect gentleman.

## Captain Carl A. Nelson, USN (Ret):

I've been a member of SDFF club since about 1964 or 65 when I first came to San Diego and met Gordon. Of course my 33 year naval career prevented me from getting away on trips every year, but after retirement I connected with Jack Bentley who as far as I know was the first to organize multiple fly fishers for extended trips to the best places in the western US. He brought his lengthy library of jokes and his good humor to lead us to world famous rivers in Alaska, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Northern California—what did I miss? He checked out the the airfare, hotels, restaurants, and guides and off we went to test our skills. Jack is already missed by anyone who was lucky to know him, but especially the beneficiaries of not only his organizational skills but his ability to take the wily Rainbow and Brown with a fly rod in his skillful hands.



Sympathy cards may be sent to: Mrs. Rosemary Bentley

Memorial services to be held Saturday, October 30th, 11:00am at the Foothills United Methodist Church, 4031 Avocado Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91941. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Foothills United Methodist Church or the Alzheimer's Association of San Diego.

## Lucky Ketcham:

My records say he was a member in 1985, that is at least 25 years of hard work for the San Diego Fly Fishers. He received the Gordon Foster Memorial Award in 1997.

I know he was the Trip Coordinator for many years planning and taking members to many locations including Alaska, Lee's Ferry, San Juan River, Green River and many more. I do not see him listed as serving as President. But I am sure he served on the Board. The club history has a picture of him chairing the Annual Raffle.

This past year Jack donated 4 or 5 fly rods that were given to new members and his fly tying materials are helping the new fly tying classes and Wounded Warriors. Jack was so generous he told me not to sell his rods but to just give them to young people so that they could enjoy fly fishing.

I cut two pictures out of the club history but they are at least 10 years old. Of course that is how we would like to remember Jack.



## The Firehole River in Mid-July - Yellowstone Adventures

A Fish Tale by Lucky Ketcham September 28, 2010

his was my third trip to Yellowstone National Park and I was finally going to fish the famous Fire Hole River. Last year we only drove through the park in one day on our way to the Big Horn. You see the Fire Hole along the road on the scenic loop from Grant's Village, past Old Faithful, through the geyer fields and up toward the Madison. The long wide riffles and runs call to you.

When you see fly fisher's trails down to the river that are 3 feet wide you think, I'm going to **stop here** next time. You read more and more stories about fishing guides, insects, and the fish habitats of this river. It is interesting how the geysers deposit all that calcite, change the pH of the water and bring calcium and magnesium up from deep underground providing a natural fertilzer for the algae, scuds and millions of cased caddis that live

here. You think that the Fire Hole is God's gift to fly fishing. You read Craig Matthew's Guide to Yellowstone and understand how the warm water would attract all those bait fish and maintain active insect populations when all the other rivers are cold and lethargic. The Fire Hole was going to be my Ace in the Hole. I planned to run over there in the early morning while Bob was still asleep and perhaps find some evening hatches relatively

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## From the Conservation Chair continued from page 1

with medical respiration devices. My CPR training is woefully out of date, but Wayne gave Frank and me instructions. We could immediately see the color return to Skip's fingers and toes. We continued CPR for twenty minutes until the paramedics arrived and I continued chest compressions while they attached monitoring devices and got a breathing tube inserted. They tried unsuccessfully to restart his heart. They carried him to a waiting helicopter, but Skip did not survive.

We were all amazed that a snake bite could bring down a healthy adult that quickly. Some experts speculate that it was a Southern Pacific Rattlesnake because their venom is one of the few to cause neurological symptoms like Skip's immediate unconsciousness. He was bitten on the top of the foot, between the straps of his wading sandals. The fang marks were large and about 1 ½ inch apart. So, this was a big snake.



**Skip Price** 

Of course we are all second guessing our actions, but I believe that with the help of Wayne Johnson and the 911 operator our first aid and CPR procedures were correct. Certainly Sandi gave a thorough safety brief. In hind sight, I wish we had all worn heavy boots and waders. But, it was a warm day and we were more worried about heat stress and dehydration. Wet wading seemed like a good idea at the time. Now I am looking into "snake"

chaps". They are available at Cabelas and on line. One thing for sure is that a good set of working walkie talkies is important. You can't rely on cell phones for communication, even in our local mountains.

For those of you that saw the news coverage, I hope we got the message across that Skip was a great guy, volunteering to make a difference in our local fish habitats. He would want us to continue the work! I think they focused on my comments because I was back on the river two days later taking our monthly water samples, and they thought that was weird. But, it is what I do! I certainly did not ask for the publicity and I hope it doesn't scare off potential volunteers. Because, I am looking for about 20 folks to help rebuild our exclusion fence in the Golden Trout wilderness as soon as the snow melts next June.





## The Firehole River in Mid-July

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could see a fish if it was there. This was not the time of year for the Fire Hole at least in the warm water of the geyser fields. Bob Pharoah and I always catch fish and always can enjoy any river. We had fun with the small fish that

are like watching a tern seriously looking down on the ocean. Cast under a hovering tern and you are sure to catch a bonito or something. I have learned to love Osprey and try to learn from them. The big white pelicans tell you where fish and bait fish are, but I don't love them. (Yet)

The Fire Hole has much better and deeper pools further north and into the scenic loop. This time of year, those pools seem to be filled with bathers and people enjoying the warmer water.

close to camp. What I didn't notice was a small sentence in Craig Matthew's book that said, "It doesn't fish that well **mid summer** because of the **thermal influence**." That means the water temperature approaches that magic 68 degrees and into the 70's where the oxygen levels drop and big trout do not feel comfortable. They migrate to the deeper pools and colder water down stream. No wonder these trails were empty and no fishing guide trucks were parked along the road.

The river still looked great and it did have a good population of "flying fish." We have all caught flying fish, those are the four to six inch cuts or goldens that fly out of the water when you set the hook and you spend 5 minutes trying to find them in the bushes. We walked out onto these shallow flats and were disappointed by not seeing any large fish. Nothing scooted away from us and nothing held in the slip streams below us. The water was so clear and shallow that you thought you

held in the deeper channels and one foot deep plunge pools. I loved turning over rocks and just looking at the insects and habitat, trying to imagine it with more water and colder. Bring your thermometer on trout streams and look for those trout comfortable

temperatures around 55 degrees. They don't call trout "cold water fish" for nothing. Remember 70 degrees on a river marks the location for "suckers," not all of them fish.

I also learned when you see two Osprey and they are only catching 5 inch fish you should move down river. They are the local fishing experts. If you see Osprey hovering over a deep bend in the river, stop the truck. They



The parking areas were filled with cars and Bob did not want to climb down steep banks to try some pools that were not easily accessible. I thought fishing near girls in bikinis is not all bad.

The Fire Hole River is a "Food Factory" – you just need to time your trip to take advantage of it. Call the fly shops, or hire a guide. They know the whens, whys and wheres of a river. Bill Stroud will be saying "Well Duh."

- Lucky should know better.

more pictures on next page





The Firehole River in Mid-July

Ralph, my pet American Bison was probably close to 2,000 pounds and a very dangerous critter. Jack Duncan reports many tourists are gored every year trying to pet or have their picture taken near a "docile bison" like this. During the July rut they are especially dangerous. Do not take chances.



Fly Fishing Yellowstone River and the Lamar River 2010



## FLY OF THE MONTH

Gray Micro Scud - size 26 to 18

Hook: TMC 2488 size 26 - straight eye scud hook

TMC 101 size 26 - straight eye dry fly hook

Thread: UNI-Thread-Gray - 8/0

Head cement is used as the carapace.

No tails, no legs, no ribbing, no plastic scud

back ——sweet and simple.

Notes and photo by Lucky Ketcham, 9/11/2010



his very small scud pattern was the most productive fly for many of the SDFF members fishing the cold alkali tailwaters of the Green River. Utah in the summer of 2010. In the absense of cicadas, hoppers and crickets, even the big trout were gorging on this oil rich amphipod and ignoring dry flies. Each tennis ball sized -cobble stone that was covered with the soft green algaes, Chara and Cladophora provided homes to hundreds of small gray scuds and two or three red aquatic worms. There seemed to be 10 times as many baby or immature scuds in the size 26 to 24 ranges as there were the mature size 18 variety. Occasionally a Yellow Sally stonefly, a few snails and some cased caddisflie also were found on the rocks. Any fly pattern that lets Wayne Allen catch 35 good trout in a day and puts Paul Costa in the 20/20 club is worth adding to your fly box.

Amphipods are Crustaceans that need calcium to molt. They are found in many of the Western lakes and rivers that have an alkaline pH. This pattern will work on the Big Horn, Green River, San Juan, Truckee River, Eagle Lake, Heenan Lake and many of the waters we love. inches below the Corkie movable indicator. He taught Wayne to pay very close attention to mending his line to have the nymphs, split show and Corkie indicator to travel in the same seed and create a natural drift. Almost no fly line allowed to contact the water surface in this

Hyalella azteca is the small gray scud that is very numerous in tail waters. We observed 500 to 600 per square foot this year. Lyle's Gray Soft Hackle size 18 is a good pattern for the adult size. I think the size 26 worked better because many of the fly shops only sold the size 20 and 18 patterns. The educated fish were

less wary of the tiny pattern. Also the old Entomology rule that 98% of the mass producing insects are eaten before they are able to reproduce might give a clue why trout were targeting the smaller pattern. Phil, our guide and mentor from Pinedale, WY cut the tail and hackles from Waynes size 24 gray soft hackle and the fly caught more fish. There are two Genera of scuds on the Green. The larger Gammarus sp.is often imitated with a pink scud, size 16 and used as an attractor pattern above the smaller gray micro scud. Phil taught us to use a small size 26 brown Yong's Special as the attractor and use the Andy Kim method of short line nymphing. The flies are on 6X tippet at the end of a 7 ft 5X leader. Phil ties his tippet at home using two section of 18 inch 6X. The unique part is that he ties two clinch knots through the eye of the Yong's Special. A tiny #8 split shot is placed 4 inches below the YS and a larger #3 shot is added 4 to 5 inches below the Corkie movable indicator. He mending his line to have the nymphs, split shot and Corkie indicator to travel in the same seam and create a natural drift. Almost no fly line is allowed to contact the water surface in this short line method

## Instructions:

The fly is easy to tie if you have reading glasses or a magnifying glass. I tied it in camp using a hemostat for a vise and a wooden clothes pin as a bobbin weight on 6 inches or thread. Lee Wulff would have been proud of me. Attach the hook in



continued on next page

## Fly of the Month

continued from previous page

the vise and make a jam knot behind the eye. You want to make a very slender "cresent moon" of gray thread on the curved hook. On the straight shanked TMC 101 hook, the thread is a straight spindle shape. (Many references say that scuds are not curved when they swim and a straight body shape is actually more accurate.) I like the curved hook version because it looked like all the baby suds on the rocks and gives that cresent shape. I like to make the shape with smooth layers of thread. Make one of two layers of thread all the way into the bend of the hook. Each subsequent layer stops short on each end, building up the middle. Turn the fly side ways and use a white background paper to watch the profile develope. I do not want to add too many wraps of thread, but I want the profile to look different from a straigt thread midge larva. Whip finish behind the eye and trim the thread. I put the finished flies in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  wine cork and add a thin coat of head cement to just the top half of the body. I did not worry about coating the whole body. Maybe the cement will look like the carapace of the scud. Do not lay the wet scuds flat on a table or plate or they will stick down ask Wayne Allen about that trick. (Also ask him to demonstrate the "El Matador Shuffle")

Phil took a special liking to fledgling nympher Wayne, when he notices our SD angler was wading wet with just his nylon quick dry slacks. Wayne fit right into Phil's image of young anglers that could not "afford" those expensive new fangled waders. Phil took extra time to tell Wayne all the secrets. Our master salesman knows how to work the system.

Below is my drawing of the nymphing rig taught to Wayne Allen by a fly fishing guide named Phil, from Pinedale, WY. The red Corkie indicator was about the size of a nickel. It is pegged with a tooth pick on the leader for easy adjustment of depth. We fished in water 20 to 36 inches deep. Most of the time the larger top shot size 3 was only 3 or 4 inches below the indicator. If the water is faster, Phil said to



Hyallela azteca

keep the same size split shot but double them up at the same locations. If you cut the 6X tippet at an angle to make a point you can tie two clinch knots in the eye of the size 26 Yong's Special. The leader and tippets makes a 10 foot rig. The key is to mend the line according to the speed of the surrounding current seams. If a slow seam is on the inside you may have to make a down stream mend to get a natural drift. Keep the line short with much of the leader off the water. Phil is a student of Andy Kim and promotes the idea that you do not need an expensive rod and fly line to catch 75 to 100 fish a day on the Green. Phil uses the least expensive Orvis rod,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  foot. Just the set the hook with a light flick of the wrist, and set in on any movement or pause of the indicator. Also watch the movement and the opening of the white mouths of the fish in the slip stream below you. In many cases you would set the hook before there was any movement of the indicator by closely watching the fish behavior. Most people do not pay enough attention to the indicator and the mending of the line to get the nymphs, lead, indicator and leader all in the same current seam. If the indicator is not in the same seam, there will be a detectable drag on the nymphs. Educated trout can be fussy eaters.

Andy Kim is now a famous guide on the San Juan, Green and Big Horn River. Check out his website for more information and useful fly patterns. <a href="http://www.yspecial.com/">http://www.yspecial.com/</a>

Andy Kim's flies have been very good to Norb Spitzer, Bob McKay, Wayne Allen, Bob Pharoah and me. Lucky Ketcham



Recipients of the

## Stroud Award

2004-Jim Brown 2005-Allen Greenwood 2006- Hugh Marx 2007- Mike Rivkin 2008- Bill Van Wulven 2009- Larry Bottroff



Cutoff date for **December** FINNY FACTS articles---**Friday November 12th**.

Send articles to: Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

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

Lucky Ketcham

## 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.

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

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

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Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood, Mike Rivkin, Bill Van Wulven, Tom Smith, Larry Bottroff, Aubrey Wendling

Recipients of the:

## GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki1992-Bob Camp2002-Larry Sorensen1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud2003-Jim Tenuto

1994-Ed Velton2004-Joe Bain1995-Bob Wisner2005-Jim Reeg1996-Gary Hilbers2006-John Kasten1997-Jack Bentley2007-Lucky Ketcham1998-Gordie Zimm2008-Louie Zimm1999-Gretchen Yearous2009-Warren Lew

2000-Tom Smith



### **SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS** 2010 OFFICERS

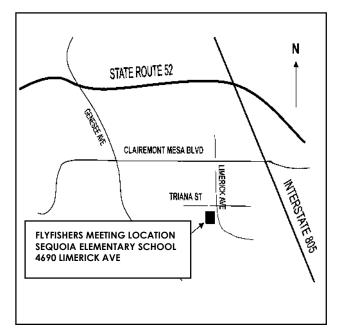
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Monthly Weekend Outings- Refreshments-Dick Mount Newsletter CoEditors-Rose & Roger Yamasaki

**Programs**- Gary Farrar Raffles- Alan Thompson, Jonathan Hee (annual)

Maria Goldman Rod Building-Ron Meler Trips-David Collins Video & Library-Bill Stock Web Page-**David Collins** www.sandiegoflyfishers.com

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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**SINCE 1962**