

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

AUGUST 2005

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 10, No. 8

August Meeting

The Annual Fly Tying Round Table is Back by Popular Demand

The August meeting will feature our Annual Fly Tying Round Table. **Gary Hilbers** has again lined up a great group of tiers including **Eileen Stroud**, **Doug Joseph** (Doug does the great salmon flies used in the fly plates awarded each year), **Tom Smith**, **Lucky Ketcham**, **Paul Woolery**, **Danny Ramero**, **Jim Tenuto**, **Gary Hilbers** and others.

This is a great opportunity to learn new patterns and tying techniques. These folks cover it all, Fresh and Salt, Dry and Nymph and Streamers. This is always a fun and educational evening. Hope you can all make it to the meeting to see what our folks can do.

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, August 1st, 2005
7:30 PM

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

REMINDER

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

**Paul Woolery and
Lucky Ketcham**

Thank you, Mona Morebello

A “Reel” Northern California Vacation

as told by Sam & Mona Morebello

Rain, snow, sun and hail...two San Diego Fly Fishers prevailed! No need to leave California for breathtaking scenery, large, healthy trout and variable weather.

Our first destination was Antelope Creek Ranch (about 160 miles north of Redding) in the shadow of Mt. Shasta. The lodge there is owned and operated by The Fly Shop in Redding and features suburb accommodations, terrific food and a combination of still-water fishing on two ponds and 2 miles of stream at your door-step. The stands of Aspen and meadows of wildflowers were breathtaking. For us, this was a “big splurge”.

Fishing throughout Northern California was less productive this year due to unseasonably high waters and unexpected rain and snow in June. The trout we caught were big and healthy but you had to work hard and stay out of the water.

A short drive down Highway 97 took us to the wonderful lumber mill and railroad towns of Weed, Dunsmuir and Shasta City. These towns are great places to



Mona with a lunker from the creek.

access many Blue Ribbon Trout Waters: The Upper Sacramento, McCloud, Klamath, Hat Creek and Fall River. Again, high waters prevented us from wading but the fly shops were friendly and helpful, especially Bob Grace @ Ted Fay's Shop and Bill Tate @ Dunsmuir Fly Fish Company. A couple of catches on the Mc Cloud and some sight seeing gave a chance to visit the Mt. Shasta Hatchery, home of the 2003 Eagle Lake ALBINO Rainbow Trout. They are light yellow from head to tail.

High water sent us back to Redding where we spent a delightful Father's

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Michael Maloney Fly Casting Clinics for Beginners to Tournament Casters San Diego, August 13-14, 2005

Michael Maloney is offering fly casting group clinics and private lessons in San Diego on the weekend of August 13-14, 2005. Specific times will depend on signups.

Michael is a nationally-recognized fly casting instructor who has been fly fishing for 49 years and teaching for 29 years. He is certified as a "Master Casting Instructor" by the Federation of Fly Fishers. Michael not only teaches his students to cast but, more importantly, he teaches them to recognize, analyze and correct their own casting mistakes, so that they can continue to teach themselves long after the lesson is over. The icing on the cake? Michael believes that humor in the right dose is critical to the learning process; his clinics are not only educational, but also entertaining and fun!

What others have said about Michael Maloney:

"... one of the most effective casting instructors I have ever worked with! [Michael] has a unique ability to reach students in ways that the rest of us never dreamed of!" **Flip Pallot**, ESPN's Walkers Cay Chronicles

"... the complete teacher is someone who genuinely cares and understands that the quintessence of teaching is inspiration. Michael Maloney is that teacher." **Mel Krieger**, Author, The Essence of Flycasting

Cost: Group clinic: (3 hours, maximum of 12 people): \$85 per person

Private lesson: (1 hour): 1 or 2 people, \$125 per hour; \$25 for each additional person.

Depending upon signups:

Sat. Aug 13: 9-12, meet at Andy Montana's in Coronado
2-5, Colonia Park, Solana Beach
Sun Aug 14: 10-1, Colonia Park, Solana Beach
2-5, Colonia Park, Solana Beach

Private lessons by arrangement.

Contact Michael Maloney at
or contact Steve Piper at



A “Reel” Northern California

Vacation

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The upper pond.

Day floating the Lower Sac.....great fishing, sunny and cool weather, and a chance to float under Redding’s newest attraction, the Sundial Suspension Bridge.

From Redding we headed across to Weaverville, Lewiston and the Trinity Alps. Dr. Steve @ Creek Side Sporting Shop detailed several fishing spots along Highway 3 from Weaverville up to Coffee Creek. This was a spectacular drive but you guessed it, high water! We ended up on Lewiston Lake in a rented boat, trying to educate the trout that flies are better than worms.

Our final route was through Mt. Lassen,

Susanville, Bridgeport and Mammoth. Same message stay out of the water except down in Bishop where you can try the Lower Owens in 98 degree weather. Many roads and passes had not yet opened due to snow.

Our advice is to not plan too far ahead for Northern California and check the flows before you leave home if fishing is your only goal. Due to our having to book ranch reservation 10 months ahead of time, we were unable to follow this plan. We live in a beautiful state and Northern California gives those of us from San Diego a chance to decompress and see how the other half live.



A 22” bow from the pond.



How about those crowds.



A rainbow from the pond.

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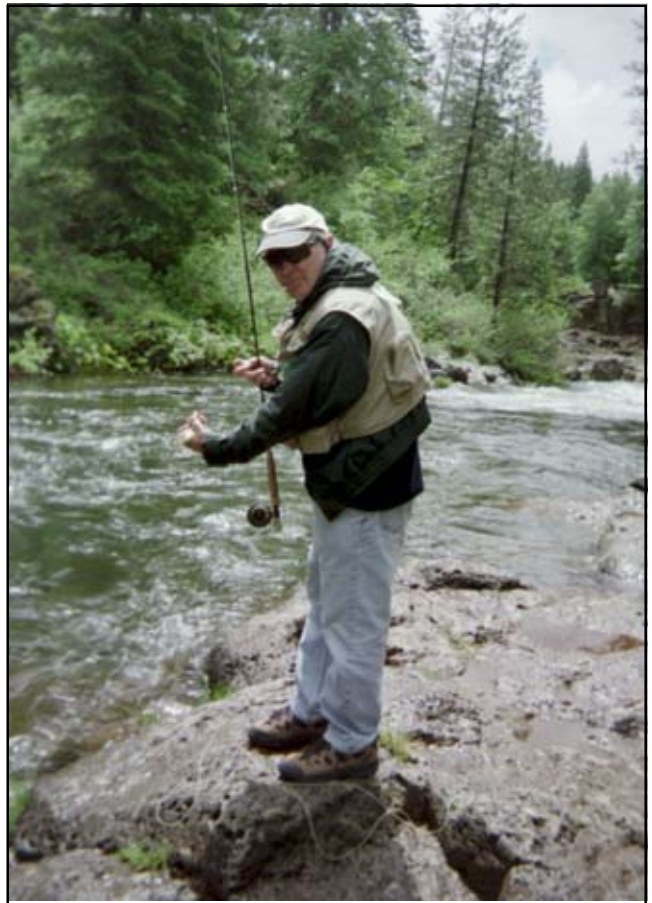
A “Reel” Northern California

Vacation

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On the lower Sac.



On the McCloud River.



I think mine is bigger!



FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

Kudos to Debra Hawk; San Diego River Foundation

I would like to publicly thank Debra Hawk, for driving down from Bishop to be our guest speaker on July 11. As the California Department of Fish and Games, Wild Trout Fisheries Biologist for the Eastern Sierras, Debra brought a wealth of knowledge and experience. Her message about the New Zealand Mud Snail infestation was not fun for any of us to hear. But, being more knowledgeable of the problem can help us all to get the word out. Maybe, the NZMS invasion can't be stopped, but perhaps a few more informed fishers can help slow the spread, or prevent future similar infestations. I, for one, appreciate Debra's candid presentation. We now know what we are up against, what to look for and how many of the snails we may not be able to see. Hopefully, we can keep from making the problem worse.

Thank you, George Gates for making Debra's visit happen.

On a brighter note, we received a nice

thank you letter from the San Diego River Park Foundation, for our \$250 donation. An anonymous donor matched our donation. The money will help support the Foundations effort to build a 52-mile park corridor from Mission Bay to Lake Cuyamacha and beyond. San Diego Fly Fishers is an active member of the San Diego River Coalition, which supports the Foundation. Together, they continue to make increasingly rapid progress. Hundreds of acres have already been purchased or designated as part of the park project. The San Diego River Master Plan has been submitted to the San Diego City Council for approval. That plan designates several sites as fishing access points. Also, the new Lakeside River Park is now under construction. It will turn the old Hansen sand and gravel pits into a beautiful park and will contain two fishing venues, one specifically for children. Of equal importance, I believe, protecting and



GARY STRAWN

improving the riparian habitat and preventing pollution in the coastal river watersheds is one of the most effective ways to improve the water quality (and fishing) on San Diego's bays and beaches. Clean beaches and bays are not just a result of eliminating industrial pollution and tourist trash, but also requires the control of non-point source pollution in the upper reaches of the watershed. A healthier San Diego River is good for everyone. For more information on the San Diego River Park go to www.sandiegoriver.org.



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.



The San Diego River Park Foundation

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May 26, 2005

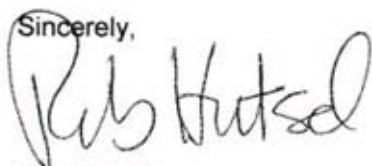
San Diego Fly Fishers Club
Mr. Gary Strawn
1457 Morena Blvd.
San Diego CA 92110

Dear Gary,

Thank you very much for your donation of \$250. We very much appreciate the continuing support of the San Diego Fly Fishers Club. Support from groups such as yours are very important to the Foundation, demonstrating we are on the right track.

The Foundation has many projects going on right now, and others in the planning stage. Please watch the Foundation website at www.sandiegoriver.org for up to date information.

Sincerely,



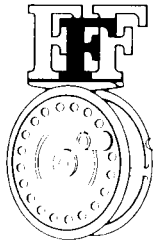
Rob Hutsel
Executive Director

Thank you!
look forward to working
with the club -
Rob

TSDRPF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are 100% tax deductible as allowed by law. No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift. Please keep this receipt for income tax records. Federal Tax ID 01-0565671

4891 Pacific Highway, Suite 114, San Diego, CA 92110 (619) 297-7380





From the FFF Clubwire News

from Klamath Country Fly Casters newsletter – FFF Affiliate Club

Tarpon Bamboo

Mexican guides have a way of showing their disapproval without saying a word. I am sure if Addy, our guide, was able to translate his thoughts into our language it would not have been pleasant. After all how many guys step into the boat on the first day of tarpon fishing with a bamboo rod. I am sure it is safe to say that they have seen few if any of these rods and probably question their ability and strength to endure what lies ahead. Many questions probably came to his mind like “Have you ever caught a Tarpon on Bamboo before?” My partner Jim knew the answer to that question and quickly volunteered to Addy the information he did not need to hear. “He never has caught a tarpon on bamboo but he did break five rods in the Baja on Dorado” Addy’s only reply was of few words “Dorado tough fish”.

Actually I have only caught one tarpon period, a baby of 25 lbs, and to top it off I did it with Jim’s 10 weight Sage, not something I like to admit. You might say I am a deeply religious man and many years ago it had to have been the voice of God I heard say “Thou shalt fish with bamboo and bamboo only.” So when I requested and fished graphite because I doubted my Orvis SSS bamboo 10 weight, I felt like I was sinning. I was frightened by the power of the fifty pounder that Jim had landed and thought I can’t do this

to my bamboo. So you see my motives were pure and had only the best interest of my rod in mind. However I did repent and vowed that day to turn from my wicked ways.

That was a year ago and today in the midst of a beautiful Mexican-Caribbean sunrise we motor across a flat ocean heading for giant tarpon water. It is hard to keep my thoughts on fishing this day, so much beauty surrounds me and I am fascinated by all the marine life we witness on the way out, Then the motor stops and I remember we have come to tarpon fish and not sight see. With Addy’s brother’s boat a few hundred yards away we begin looking for tarpon slowly paddling down the slick, schools of bait fish stir on each side of us. Occasionally you hear a loud crack of thunder and you realize that was just the baitfish as they try to evade their predators. Could it be tarpon, no it is just a few porpoises.

Jim being the gracious partner that he is says “It’s your turn, you go first.” I would like to tell you that I argued with him about it but I think my response was more like “OK”. After the guide approved of the rigging, leader and line, not the rod, I made my way to the front of the boat. We all then began to look for fish and after about an hour we spotted them coming towards us about 500 yards out. Addy began to

paddle the boat towards them to cut them off and get into position. Addy’s brother however had a trolling motor and quietly got into position before we even got close. They immediately hooked a tarpon, one jump and it was off. Now I am not wild about blind casting especially when I am salt water fishing but Addy said cast, so I did. To my surprise after about 3 casts I got a take, the fish came straight towards me and I tried to get him on the reel instead of stripping line.

Well you know the rest of the story, in a matter of seconds he was on and off. I checked my fly and placed my cast from my Paul Young 9' bamboo back in the same spot. I let it sink mentally counting to ten. One strip and this time no mistakes, strip strike and three hard sets with the rod. The explosion began, an immediate jump followed by two more and then into my backing. Once he stopped I checked my drag and started putting the butt to him. Ever so slowly I got back to my fly line, a major milestone, by working the fish side to side and down. I was so focused on the fish I didn’t realize what Jim and Addy were doing in the back of the boat. I began to notice some instability in the boat when I would pull to the right or left, it was like there was a weight shift. Maybe that is because there was when I would pull right they would shift to the opposite side of the boat. When I

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Tarpon Bamboo

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asked what gives they said" I am not going to be setting there when that rod splinters".

After over a one hour struggle I finally had almost won the battle, denying myself any water or rest, I kept the pressure on. I refused the offer of my friend for water, why I don't know, I felt like I was imposing on him and the tarpon. A boat went by and spooked the fish only to prolong the fight a few more minutes but finally I had him boat side. Addy took the gaff and promptly missed the fish and jabbed himself in the tummy. Fortunately for him there was plenty of cushion and it only left a tiny mark. Unfortunately for me I was dehydrated and drained, now I had to bring him up for one more pass. Exhausted I used up all I had to get him back to the boat so if he misses again I am done, did I mention he missed one other time also. This time he didn't miss and hoisted the 85 to 90 lb tarpon into the boat. "Picture" he asked "Si" I replied. Jim got the camera out and prepared to shoot. Addy asked "You stand" and I said "no I sit, too tired"

A bottle of water does wonders to restore strength, I look over the side of the boat and there my tarpon gracefully returns to his water. I thank him for the opportunity as he safely swims away. I look down at my feet and there is a scale he left behind to remember him by, his way of saying your welcome. Jim more energetic and excited than me at this point, congratulates me and talks about few have done that, tarpon on bamboo. I began to reflect on the moment and for the first time I began to understand what he has been telling me all along. No not about the tarpon on bamboo but

that maybe the importance of fishing is not what you do but who you are with to share those moments. I look at him and I am reminded that he graciously gave up his spot for his friend so that I could have the opportunity of a lifetime. My only hope is that he would be so blessed as I on this trip, not only with tarpon but with friendship. 

The Successful Angler's Journal

I was reading an article by Marv Taylor on Stillwater Fly Fishing and found this Angler's Journal. Maybe some of you might find it useful. The link to Fly Anglers Online will get you the original article: <http://www.flyangersonline.com/features/lakes/part3.html>.

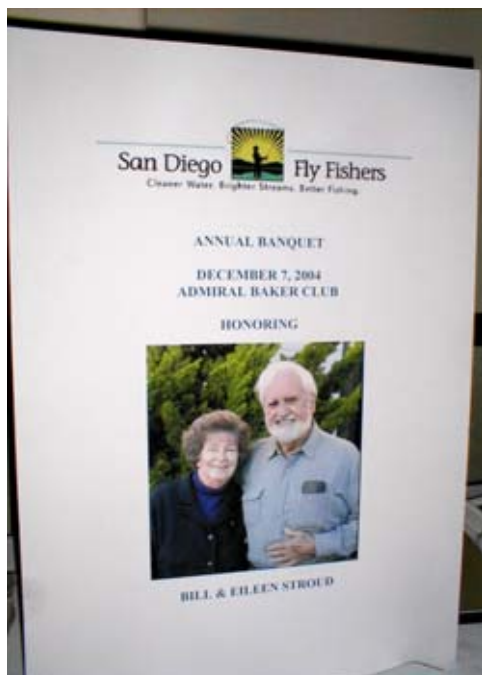
Lucky Ketcham

THE SUCCESSFUL ANGLER'S JOURNAL <small>TM</small>					
DATE		HOURS FISHED		TOTAL HOURS	
DAY OF WEEK		BEST HOURS			
WHERE		CAMP			
WHO I FISHED WITH					
WEATHER		AM		PM	
SUNNY		_____		CALM WINDS	
PARTLY CLOUDY		_____		MODERATE WINDS	
RAINY		_____		HEAVY WINDS	
WATER TEMP		AIR TEMP		MOON	
				BAROMETER	
RESULTS		TARGET SPECIES		NUMBER CAUGHT	
		SIZE RANGE			
		SECONDARY SPECIES		NUMBER CAUGHT	
		SIZE RANGE			
IMPORTANT HATCHES			MEMORABLE FISH		
MOST PRODUCTIVE FLY PATTERNS			SKETCH OF ANY NEW FLIES		
RODS USED			UNIQUE PRESENTATIONS		
LINES USED			MAPS ETC.		
LEADERS					
LENGTH _____					
TIPPET _____					
# OF TUBERS _____					
# OF BOATS _____					
# BANK ANGLERS _____			SPACE FOR ADDITIONAL MAPS AND DATA ON OPPOSITE PAGE		
TOTAL FISH FOR THE DAY _____			FISH PER HOUR _____		



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2004-Jim Brown



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- | | |
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| 1992-Bob Camp | 1999-Gretchen Yearous |
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| 1994-Ed Velton | 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki |
| 1995-Bob Wisner | 2002-Larry Sorensen |
| 1996-Gary Hilbers | 2003-Jim Tenuto |
| 1997-Jack Bentley | 2004-Joe Bain |

Cutoff date for **September FINNY FACTS**
articles---Friday August 12th.

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 Thanks!!

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

Lucky Ketcham



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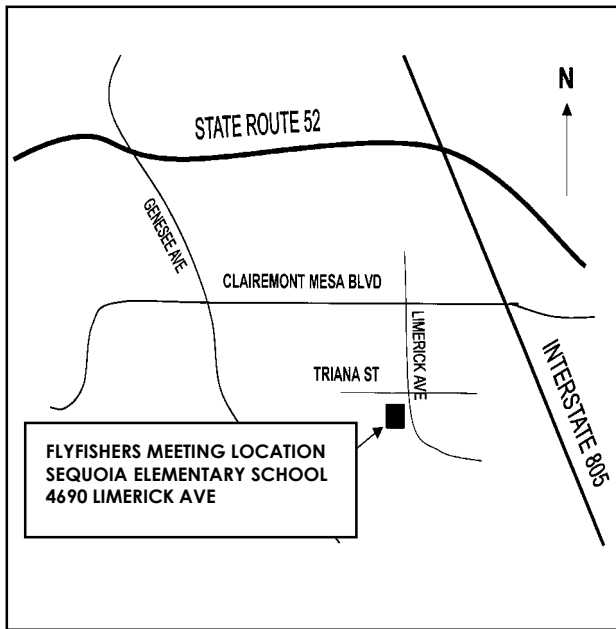
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Meeting Place for Workshops

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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