

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

NOVEMBER 2003

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 8, No. 11

## November Speaker

### **Aniak River Lodge, Alaska, on the Fall Docket**

**O**ur November speaker will be **Sam Sudora**, owner of Aniak River Lodge, Alaska. Fly fishing Alaska is truly a magical experience and Sam's presentation will be an opportunity to learn more about one of the premier areas in the state!

His lodge is located 318 miles northwest of Anchorage, on the banks of the Kuskokwim River, and the Aniak River. The Kuskokwim River has the largest run of Chum and Coho Salmon, and one of the largest runs of King Salmon of any river in Alaska. It also has Sockeye and Pink Salmon.

The Aniak River produces 80% of all salmon produced on the Kuskokwim River and its tributaries. Because of their record salmon returns, their fishery also offers spectacular Leopard Rainbow Trout ranging up to ten pounds, Dolly Varden, Char, Grayling, Pike, Lake fish and Sheefish, called

**continued on page 3**

### **REMINDER**

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

**Brian Tone and Lasoya**

*Thank you, Mona Morebello*

## **SDFP Club Members Experience Memorable Fishing in Kodiak Alaska**

*Saltery Lake Lodge, Kodiak Island, Alaska--September 13-20, 2003*

by Jim Richardson



**A**fter a 20 minute floatplane ride from Kodiak City we land at Saltery Lake Lodge. We were greeted by a friendly staff who took excellent care of us over the next

week. The next evening our cook, Ginger, prepared halibut caught by three members of our group. Delicious!

Early each morning (at a brisk 32 degrees) we would load up and SUVs and head down to fish along the 2-1/2-mile Saltery River. The three guides knew the best spots.

**continued on page 3**

### **MEETING NOTICE**

Monday, November 3rd, 2003

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: NOVEMBER 2003

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In September, I missed the Club's meeting with Ed Engle as the featured speaker... and I could use his terrific nymph fishing tips. But, it was worth it, as my trip to the Copper River Lodge in Alaska was a wonderful experience. Thanks to the generosity of Pat Vermillion and Sweetwater TravelTravel, Marty Reed and I spent one week

on the shores of the Copper River, which drains in to Lake Iliama. During our stay there, we caught huge rainbows on flesh flies and bead salmon eggs.

We were lucky, as although it sprinkled a little one day, the other days were dry and we could fish in our waders and fleece jackets.

My expectations proved to be a little unrealistic, as I was expecting naïve fly chasing Alaskan rainbows... and fifteen to twenty fish days. Marty and I didn't catch that many, but I think we each averaged eight to twelve fish days, with at least one 21"-24" fish every day!

Marty caught the largest fish of the trip, a "hog" measuring 27" in length, with a substantial girth! The fish took his bead egg during the last twenty minutes of our day, and he was "stoked" when the guide had his fish of a lifetime in the net!

You will notice a change when you renew your Club membership in December. With the 2004 membership renewal, along with your check, you will be asked to sign a release of liability. So that the Club can obtain insurance, this is required and your understanding would be appreciated. You'll, also, need a release form signed



**WARREN LEW**

to go on any Club trip.

I haven't been able to be at every meeting this year, and I want to acknowledge next year's club president, George Gates. He's stepped in every time I've asked him, and the Club is very fortunate to have him leading us in 2004.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Jim Tenuto headed up a group of Club members to tie flies and teach fly casting at the National Fishing and Hunting Day at Lake Murray. Promoting our sport here at Lake Murray has a special place in Jim's heart, and his work is definitely appreciated.

There are two other members who I want to recognize. They are Gary Strawn and Gary Hilbers. These two are responsible for the Annual Banquet on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and have been making the arrangements at the Admiral Kidd Club. It's a lot of work, and next month, all of us can thank them for a memorable and enjoyable evening.

Gary Hilbers is the chairperson of the Nominations Committee, and would like to hear from you if you would like to volunteer to serve as an officer or director of the Club. Call him at (619) 440-6416.

In memory of Wayne Rose, his wife, Kathy, has been donating his fly

fishing books and tying materials to the Club. Thank you, Kathy, for your generous donation to the SDFF. We miss Wayne!

See you at the November meeting!



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### Quotes

"The proper sauce for trout, of course - the one requisite sauce - never appears on the platter. It is finely and inimitably blended of the wind in the cedars, the ceaseless gurgle and gossip of the stream, the odor of clover perhaps - or of wet leather - the chill of a forest twilight, and a persuasive, healthful weariness that is itself a blessing. Such is the sauce for a dish of fried trouts. Scarcely do I need to point out to you, Miss Tingle, the failure of the urban kitchen to provide these certain condiments, and gladly do I absolve you of all fault. One must contrive to get a dinner from such materials as are at hand . . ."

Author Unknown

(from Robert W. Eubanks, Jr.  
Buckeye United Fly Fishers)





**JACK BENTLEY**

**Any Questions?  
Call Jack Bentley at**

## **Lees Ferry Trip December 8-12, 2003**

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### **November Speaker continued from page 1**

the 'Tarpon of the North'.

In addition to the great fishing, the area is loaded with an abundance of wildlife. It is not uncommon to see brown and black bears, moose, caribou, wolves, otter, mink, wolverine, osprey and bald and golden eagles.

Sam Sudora has worked 25 years in the fishing industry. He pioneered the test fishery for the state of Alaska Department of Fisheries, to monitor and record the numbers of salmon returning to the Aniak River, and the number of salmon returning to the streams and rivers of the Kuskokwim River system each year for six years. With the knowledge gained there he constructed the Aniak River Lodge in 1995.

## **Alaska Trip A Major Success Story**

Ref: Alaska 2003-04

Twenty-five of our club members fished Alaska this season. 18 to 20 visited Sallery Lake Lodge and they wish to return.

### **NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN FOR OUR NEXT YEAR IN ALASKA!**

The Sallery Lake Lodge has only 8 beds available for the week of September 11th through the 19th 2004. We should fill this as soon as possible (at \$2250 per week) as we cannot expect to Lodge to hold these openings long.

Also to keep in mind :

1. Next year's Green River trip is scheduled for May 10-15 2004.
2. Lees Ferry is fishing better and small groups of four can be easily arranged. Call Jack for details.

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### **Sallery Lake Lodge continued from page 1**

Everyone caught their limit of coho (silver) salmon.

We thank Jack Bentley for putting this trip together in his usual efficient manner.

Sam will be here at the request of several of our members who have enjoyed great trips to his lodge, go nearly every year, and wanted to recommend him to the rest of the membership of our club. We are looking forward to his presentation!

—Marty Reed



*Tour Director Jack Bentley  
with guide John.*

**more photos on next page**





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**More pics from the Saltery Lake Lodge**



*Bob Miller with a big on the line.*

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*Willie Randall outside the lodge.*

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*Our cook, Ginger.*

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*Jim Richardson with guide John and a NICE silver salmon.*

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*Bob Miller relaxing inside the lodge.*

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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## PAUL'S SPECIAL

<b>Hook:</b>	Tiemco 5262, 2X long #8 (De-barbed or Barbless)
<b>Bright Brass Bead:</b>	1/8 or 3/16
<b>Tail:</b>	Olive Marabou blended with rust or root beer marabou, topped with a small bunch of orange Arctic Fox fur and 3 strands of Pearl Krystal Flash
<b>Hackle:</b>	Olive grizzly
<b>Body:</b>	Black and Pearl medium chenille



1. Place the gold bead on the hook and tie in the tail. Blend the olive and the rust marabou together and tie in at the bend of the hook. Tail should be the length of the hook shank. Then tie in the Arctic Fur and Krystal Flash.
2. Tie in the hackle with the concave side down. Next tie in the chenille body material. Wrap the chenille forward to just behind the bead with tight wraps and tie it off. Remove any excess material.
3. Wrap the hackle forward to just behind the bead. The hackle should be tied sparsely. Three or four wraps are sufficient.
4. Whip finish behind the bead. (Optional - apply head cement to the whip finish)

This fly is very effective when fished in our local reservoirs and the alpine lakes of the Eastern Sierra Mountains.

It is tied very similar to the way you would tie a Wooly Bugger, and it should be fished as you would fish a Wooly Bugger.

**PAUL BRITTING**



# **South West Council, Federation of Fly Fishers**

## **Educational Fair and Conclave!**

**Saturday-Sunday, November 22-23, 2003**

**Times: 9am-6pm Saturday Nov. 22  
10am-4pm Sunday Nov. 23**

**Location: Sequoia Club Conference Center  
7530 Orangethorpe Ave.  
Buena Park, CA 90621  
(Beach Blvd. and Orangethorpe Ave.)**

### **— Over 70 Booths —**

**-Manufacturers of premium fly fishing gear: rods, reels, lines, gadgets, luggage, inflatables, waders, clothing and much more!**

**-Lodges and outfitters representing travel destinations from Alaska to Argentina, bon-fish to brown trout! Plan your fishing trip of a lifetime!  
Slide shows every half hour in TWO theaters!**

**-Fly Tiers Row - watch some of the country's most talented tiers create patterns for fresh and saltwater!**

**-Daily prize drawings!**

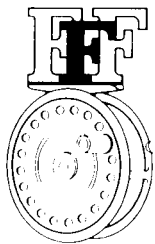
**-Fly fishing seminars from some of the most knowledgeable experts in fly fishing - Dave Whitlock, Mike Lawson, Rick Hafele, Barry Beck, Ken Hanley, Brian O'Keefe, Denny Rickards, Richard Bean and many more!**

**-Two outdoor casting ponds! Try out your next rod, or learn new casting techniques from the pros! Sage rod designer Jerry Siem, world champion caster Tim Rajeff, spey-style caster Simon Gawesworth, author Cathy Beck and surprise guests!**

**-Authors on hand to autograph copies of their books and videos!**

**F**





## **From the FFF Clubwire News**

**Submitted By Barry Whitehouse of the Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association**

### **Why Would Anyone Want to Build Their Own Fly Rod?**

**L**ate last fall, at a CFFA (Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association) meeting, sign up for the yearly rod building class was announced. I thought, "Why would I want to build my own fly rod?" I already own a couple of fly rods, and can't really justify another rod. OK, I own about ten bass fishing rods, but I never spent more than \$40 for any of them. Fly rods are so expensive, why risk all that money making a rod that might not turn out to be very good? For 30-40% more, I could buy a professionally made fly rod. Well, I had taken CFFA's fly tying course two winters before, and I attended their salt water fly tying class one year ago. I had a lot of fun at both. So what would I do this winter? Gotta think of a reason to take the class... I know! I could build a fly rod for my son Neil, an accomplished fisherman, who had never fly fished before. However, I wasn't sure that he'd be interested in fly fishing. So I told him I was thinking of taking the class, and building a fly rod for him. He said, "that would be really special". So I had my motivation!

#### **CFFA's Rod Building Class**

I took the class. Jack Smola taught it, with Ed Rowan filling in when Jack couldn't be there. The students told them what kind of fly rod each wanted to build, and Jack and Ed ordered all the parts needed, at about half the price of a factory built rod. They taught us all the steps — finding the

spine (natural bend) in the rod, measuring for placement of the line guides, reaming out the cork handle and wooden reel seat insert, gluing the handle together, winding thread to mount the guides and protect the ferrules, and applying rod finish epoxy to seal the threads. I even learned how to do a fancy trim thread wrap in different colors. They explained or demonstrated the steps, and gave lots of helpful hints. We all worked at our own pace, each at a different stage in his own fly rod building project. While some students worked on their rods at the class, I used class time to learn all about the steps, and then worked on my fly rod at home.

#### **Patience and Perseverance**

You don't have to be a perfectionist to build a decent quality fly rod that you'll enjoy. But I'm pretty detail oriented (that's "anal retentive" to those of you who are not detail oriented). I drove Jack nuts with all my questions and concerns. I wanted the fly rod to turn out as perfect as possible. So when a step didn't turn out as well as I liked, I took it apart and redid it. Sometimes the rework involved cutting and rewinding thread, but other times I had to heat the cured epoxy, and cut off the epoxy and hardened threads, then scrape off the remnants of the glue. (This happened many times, but I kept plugging away, and eventually, the rod came out really nice.) A special

"Thank you" also to Lou Fabrizio, CFFA's webmaster and a co-worker of mine, for lots of good advice on rod building. I had the nickel silver butt cap engraved with my son's initials, and the aluminum rod tube cap engraved with my son's name and the information about the fly rod. (I ordered the engraving from REC rod components, where Ed works, and Ed did the engraving.)

#### **The Real Satisfaction**

I gave the 9 foot, 6 weight rod to my son on his 21st birthday, along with an Orvis reel, weight forward line, and a box of flies that I tied myself (thanks to CFFA's fly tying classes!). He really loves the fly rod. The first time I took him fly fishing, he caught at least half a dozen crappie, and I caught a few myself. Some of the highlights of the day were my dropping my cell phone overboard (goodbye!), and explaining the importance of wearing eye protection, only to hit him in the head with a fly just seconds later. (Barbless hook, and it didn't stick, thank goodness).

#### **The Obsession Continues**

After building my first rod, I was hooked... I mean obsessed, with rod building. So then I built my own fly rod — a St. Croix SCV (Legend Elite). I did some fancy gold trim threadwork on mine, too. I've been using it for a couple of months now. The rod is a pleasure to cast! Well, I couldn't stop,

**continued on next page**





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## Fly Rod

continued from page 7

so I decided to build a fishing rod for another veteran angler in the family - my 19 year old daughter. I built her a 6 foot 6 inch St.Croix SCII fast action, light power spinning rod. The rod is matte black, the guides have deep blue ceramic rings, and the threads are a beautiful dark blue, metallic blue, and silver. I even learned how to create a diamond pattern thread wrap above the handle, and I'm sure she's going to love it. My nickname for her is "Sunshine", so I painted a small silver sunshine on the rod, as well as on the rod case, to personalize them for her. I just put the finishing touches on this rod, so by the time you read this, she will have taken it fishing!

## Rod Building Help on the Web

I have discovered several web sites that feature rod building. (Just do a search on "rod building".) Two of my favorites are:  
www.mudhole.com (they have Rodbuilding 101 lessons on their web site) www.rodbuilding.org (rod building tips for new and experienced rod builders)

## So Why Build a Fly Rod?

So why would anyone want to build their own fly rod? Here are just a few reasons I discovered:

- 1)To attend one of CFFA's great classes,
- 2)To spend the winter hours on a satisfying, fishing-related hobby,
- 3)To build a great rod for the price of

an average factory-built rod, 4)To make a custom fly rod that you couldn't buy in any store, 5) To make a very personalized gift for a special person, 6)To catch a fish (or watch that special someone catch a fish) on a rod you built yourself. So this fall, when CFFA announces signup for its rod building class, you just might want to give it a try...and start your new obsession

*Editor's note: Barry's year-long obsession with rod building has qualified him to teach CFFA's 2004 rod building class. He will be the featured speaker at the November CFFA meeting, and will present "Rod Building Basics" and "Customizing Your Rod".*

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## Fluorocarbon

By Bob Shirley,  
WSCFFF President

Several years ago, the guys at the Hatch in Tacoma told me about a new material being used for tapered leaders - it was called fluorocarbon, it was expensive, but almost invisible in water. Since I was planning a trip to one of my favorite nymphing rivers in Montana, I bought some and took them with me. I firmly believe those leaders helped me hook up to vastly more fish and to land more because of my ability to use larger diameter tip sections and still be invisible to the fish. This was happening UNDERWATER since fluorocarbon sinks many times faster than nylon unless greased - making it a bad choice for dries.

So it seemed the answer to a fisherman's prayer, but there was a down side. Fluoro should not be straightened with a commercial leader straightener made with the two pieces of black rubber. The rubber generates heat in the leader and curly layers of

material are stripped off as if you were using a tiny wood plane on it rather than a rubber pad. Fluoro is slippery - an improved clinch knot needs to be wrapped 6 to 8 times not 3 or 4 like nylon. Hence, any knot needs to be modified in order to allow for the slickness of the material. Fluorocarbon does not degrade as easily in nature as nylon. Be careful where or if you throw it away .

Some more good news, fluorocarbon will not degrade with exposure to UV which means you can keep it year after year without losing tensile strength. Fluoro does not mar or scuff like nylon and is more resistant to abrasion. I use it to good effect by tying on any wet dropper with fluoro tippet material. The tiniest WD-40, Copper John, Lightning Bug or other dropper WILL sink thanks to the higher sink rate of fluoro. Now the commercial - Rio has come up with 'Fluoroflex (reg. trademark) Plus.' 'Plus' is strong stuff. 3x tippet material is 9.4 lb test, 5x is 5 lb! It would seem that this product, in the proper application, could make a world of

difference in nymphing and in the use of a dropper. Higher test and no increase in visibility screams for use against large fish in lakes using intermediate lines, and in rivers as tippet to your first nymph, your trailer nymph, and to any sinking dropper when they are tied to large dries used as attractors.

I have used this new generation of fluorocarbon on Rocky Ford, Park Lake, Blue Lake, and Lake Minterwood. No failures, no slipped knots, no complaints. We are going to Montana for a week on the Missouri, so that to me will be the real test. If it fools big fish in big water using heavier diameter tippet with increased tensile strength and less abrasion, it may have found a home with me. Hopefully my opinions about fluorocarbon will help you make correct choices in the specific applications where it can make a difference. You know, I have even been hearing tales of bill fish accepting fluoro in the highest test weights, and large spools of it are showing up at Sportco in Fife claiming it won't spook bass, pike, perch.





**Congratulations to Jim Brown on your day:**

**Jim Brown Day  
October 13, 2003**

**Your 34 years of service to the San Diego city lakes and 29 years as lakes manager have made San Diego a better place for all fishermen.**

**The San Diego Fly Fishers Salute You!**

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**Cutoff date for December FINNY FACTS articles---Friday November 14th**

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

**You can E-mail at Thanks!!**

**Send change of address information or Club membership renewal to:**

**Gordie Zimm**

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

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

### **HONORARY MEMBERS**

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

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



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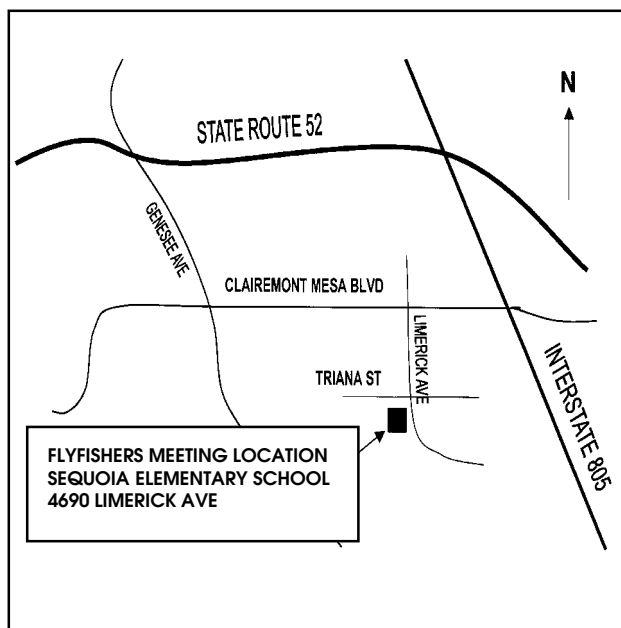
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[www.sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://www.sandiegoflyfishers.com)  
Women's Education  
Focus- Gretchen Yearous

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.



San Diego Flyfishers Headquarters  
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