

FINNY FACTS

APRIL 2008

San Diego



Fly Fishers

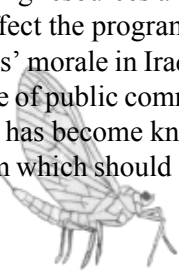
Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 13, No. 4

April Meeting

Fly Fishing Bagdad?

We are pleased to announce that our April 7th speaker will be **LCDR Joel Stewart, USN**. Joel is the founder and first Dean of the Baghdad Angler's Club and School of Fly Fishing. No, we are not suggesting a Club fishing trip to Baghdad! But, Joel does have an interesting story to tell, including the support his program has received from a variety of fly fishing resources and the very positive effect the program is having on our troops' morale in Iraq. Since this is the type of public commitment our own Club has become known for, this is a program which should interest everyone.



MEETING NOTICE

Monday, April 7, 2008
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)

**Lew Walsh and
Dan McKirnan**

Thank You, Mona Morebello

SDFF Member Bernie Fink Passes at 74

Maria Goldman writes:

Bernard Fink, longtime member of San Diego Fly Fishers passed away on Sunday morning, March 9, 2008.

Bernie was my good friend, fly fishing mentor, fellow Labrador Retriever lover and favorite cur-mudgeon.

Bernie is survived by his wife of 45 years, Joanne (Jo), his wonderful daughter Laurie, his son Jon, his sister Mickey, his son in law David Renas and sweetie pie granddaughters Annie and Caroline.

Bernie was born in Brooklyn, NY on April 30, 1933. This settles the question of Bernie's age that I have been repeatedly asked this past week. I only found out after asking Joanne. Age was never something that you thought about with Bernie. He had an enthusiasm for life and fly fishing that was contagious.

Bernie began his life long love affair with fly fishing as a kid in New York when he was about 5 or 6. He would take the subway (can't you just picture that little squirt with his rod on the subway.)

and fish Sheepshead Bay and the pier off of Coney Island in the beginning. Then he began to venture further a field. He and a friend would hitch rides on the milk wagon trucks headed Upstate so that they could fish the trout streams there.

Bernie was a fisheries biologist by training so fish were a part of his professional life as well. He fished all over the world. Bernie actually worked on the tuna boats as a fisherman for months at a time. Later his work for Van Camp and

In Memoriam



Bernard Fink
April 30, 1933-March 9, 2008

continued on page 3

I was recently reminded of the importance of taking the time to do the things you love with family and friends. Of course, for many of us, that "thing" is fly fishing and our club provides many ways to enjoy it including trips, fly tying, education, speakers, conservation, etc. Most of all, however, it provides an opportunity to meet people who share this same interest and through these activities make some great friendships.



JONATHAN HEE

As many of you may have heard by now, we recently lost one of those friends, **Bernie Fink**. Bernie was a long time member of the club, having joined in 1990, and he loved to fly fish! He began fishing as a kid in Sheep's Head Bay in New York City. By the time I met him he was a very accomplished fly fisherman. He was also a retired state Fish and Game Senior Warden and continuing volunteer with the DFG. I typically ran into Bernie fly fishing the surf at Torrey Pines or near his home in Del Mar and he almost always out-fished the rest of us. He wasn't just a great fisherman, but a terrific teacher and loved to share his knowledge of fish and fishing with whoever was willing to learn. Recently, his health prevented him from fishing the surf, but he still managed to fish. I was just speaking to him at our March meeting and he was telling me about his recent trip to Miramar Lake with some of our club members including **Lucky Ketchum, Bob Pharoah, John Beckstrand, Paul Britting** and **Bill Hanson**. He mentioned some of these guys helped

him get his pontoon boat set up so he could actually go fishing and continue to participate in this activity he loved. He was also close to **Maria Goldman**, whom he adopted his Labrador from through Labrador Rescuers. It's these kinds of people that make San Diego Fly Fishers such a special organization.

March was another busy month for our club. Our speaker, **Jimmie Morales** gave a great program about fly fishing the western side of the Sierra Nevada, Yosemite and the Kings Canyon areas. Some of the areas he covered included Yosemite's Upper Tuolumne, Merced, San Joaquin and Kings Rivers. We saw some great photos of rainbows, browns and even some steelhead. He also did a nice demonstration of some fly tying before the program. **Jimmie's** program certainly got me interested in heading up his way to do some fishing.

Dick Mount also planned a successful annual trip to the Owens River. Nine members went on the trip. In addition to **Dick, Lee McElravy, Bob Wozniak, Bob and Diane Stafford, Paul Woolery, Bob Blazer, Ed Fahlen** and **Don Davis** also went on the trip. According to **Dick**, they had great weather and good water flows. Everyone caught fish and a great time was had by all.

April is shaping up to be just as busy. The Fly Fishing Film Tour takes place on April 4, just a few days before our monthly meeting. **Al Venton** is coordinating our participation at the Boy Scouts of America scout fair on April

19. Then on the very next day, **Jim Castelluzzo** is once again coordinating our exhibit at the Annual Day at the Docks program in Point Loma. With all this going on, it's also starting to warm up which means the fishing should really start improving! I hope to see you out on the water soon.

Tight Lines!



Discounted Offer to Join Federation of Fly Fishers

As a member of San Diego Fly Fishers, you're eligible for a limited time to join FFF at a steeply discounted rate. Instead of paying the normal \$35, the fee is just \$15. In return, you get a full year's subscription to their magazine, reduced rates to their workshops and shows and your dues also support the education and conservation efforts of FFF. The club also benefits by earning a free rod, which will be donated to our raffle, if we sign up 12 members. The deadline is April 15. If interested, please contact **Jon Hee** at 760-943-7570 for a special application form.



Fly Fishing Film Tour Coming to San Diego

The Fly Fishing Film Tour hosted by AEG Media will be making its only stop in the San Diego area this year on April 4, at the La Paloma Theater in Encinitas. Tickets and information are available on-line at www.flyfishingfilmtour.com.



Bernie Fink

continued from page 1

the Tuna Commission took him to Africa, where he and Jo lived for a few years with baby Laurie as well working as a researcher in Viet Nam and numerous islands in the South Seas. After retiring, Bern became a docent at the Stephen Birch Aquarium, volunteered with the Department of Fish and Game as well as volunteering with the AARP doing tax preparation for seniors.

I met Bernie and Jo when they adopted their yellow Labrador, Ben from rescue. I mentioned a fleeting interest in learning to fly fish and our friendship was sealed. Bernie took me under his wing and immediately began my education in fly fishing. First things first, so we began casting practice. Who but Bernie would have permission to use the reflecting pool at an office building in UTC?!?! That is where we spent many a Sunday morning practicing until I graduated to the slough at Torrey Pines Beach. Bernie was a patient teacher. I wasn't a natural, but he told me that being hard headed as hell made up for it.

Subsequently, I got to experience three Green River trips under Bernie's tutelage. He always had

me float the river one day with a guide but thought that walking the river the other days was the way to really learn the river's nuances. Those days, doing Bernie's version of the "Bataan Death March" are the memories that I cherish. The man was relentless. We started our day on the river around 8 a.m. and rarely returned before 8 p.m. We were quite the pair. Me, whining about how hungry and tired I was and Bernie checking

the deep pools from the banks to see if he should make one more cast. Bernie's persistence with me paid off because now I go out and I am completely able to enjoy a day on the river, on my own, capable of reading the river to a decent degree, change flies, add tippet, change a leader and appreciate the beauty and peace that fly fishing affords me.

Bernie shared his knowledge of fly fishing with many others. Passing a part of him on this way means that Bernie will always go on. He particularly shared his love of fly fishing with his granddaughter Annie. He would get her out of bed at the crack of dawn to go fish Miramar or Lake Murray

with the promise of her favorite "pink" donuts. He also managed to teach her how to clean the fish she



caught. Both Annie and Caroline grew up knowing that "BaBa" was all about the fish.

I am going to miss being able to call Bern on my cell phone while on the Big Wood River to tell him that I just caught a trout. Sounds like an odd picture but who else would get as excited over my catching a 12 or 14 inch rainbow? Bernie will always live on in those who knew him and loved him.



Things That I learned from Bernie Fink

By Lucky Ketcham

I was glad to have the opportunity of fishing with Bernard “Bernie” Fink over the past few years. He taught me many things about fishing and just about getting out and enjoying life. When I have some aches and pains and I think about skipping a fishing opportunity, I remember Bernie and the efforts he had to make in these past few years. My troubles pale when compared to the diabetes problems, dialysis treatments, troubles breathing in high altitudes and all the things Bernie overcame to pursue his passion, fly fishing. He taught me many things that I will try to pass on to people who never fished with him.

As you get older; fish with a group of good friends, like the SFFF members. Don’t feel embarrassed to ask for some help if you need it.

When you get on a lake like Marie or Sotcher be the first person in the group to fish the inlets and the outlets. Bernie fished from his pontoon boat powered with an electric motor.

He fished without fins that might put out vibrations or scare the fish.

He quickly would make a pass to the outlet or inlet, while every one was looking for the school of stocked fish.

Don’t fish for 9 and 12 inch stocked trout if you want to catch the larger fish. Little trout do not swim with big trout. Bernie told me not to fish the center of Lundy Lake, where the little trout hang out. Fish the edges.

I asked Bernie why he did not use a fish finder. He said that after fishing for many years on the lakes in the Eastern Sierras he has memorized the locations of every big trout he ever caught. He now looks for the same habitats that would hold large trout. When in doubt he said to kick out from shore until you could just no longer see the bottom and then troll at that depth all around the lake. When you see big fish, stop and cast to them. One day on Lake Marie, in Mammoth, Bernie made a pass around the clear water lake and pronounced that there were 3 large Alper’s on the west side of the lake and a school of 80 to 100 small stockers over by the outlet. I was fishing in my little Fish Cat pontoon

boat and only made it 200 yards from the launch. I

only saw three fish in the first hour of fishing. Bernie was certain that he saw every good fish in the lake. Get some good polarized sunglasses and look into the water, not on the surface.

Fish where the fish are! After many years of fishing and observing the seasonal movements of the trout, Bernie had an instinct for knowing where to look for fish. He would use the clear intermediate line and troll almost all of it behind his pontoon boat. If he knew that the fish were biting in the deep coves of a lake he would make sure to fish them. If a boat with spin fishers were already sitting in his desired spot, he might talk friendly to them and let them enjoy watching him cast a fly and catching one of the nice trout from the desired trout.

Keep moving. If the fish are not biting in the area of the lake or stream that you are fishing keep moving and look for feeding fish. If you ever watched Bernie fish a lake, you would marvel at how fast he covered the different areas of the lake. Keep changing the flies, depths and retrieves until you find a pattern that works. Talk to people and be observant of who and where the fish are biting.

Tell your friends how much you appreciate their help and how much you enjoyed fishing with them. Share good information with your buddies.



Block Net and Equipment for Doane Pond; Backpack Trips to Golden Trout Wilderness; and Water Sampling on the San Diego River

As some of you may have read in Ed Zeiralski's column in the Sunday UT a few weeks ago, our club bought the block net and equipment for Doane Pond in Palomar Mountain State Park. Unfortunately, due to some last minute schedule changes we were not able to participate in installing the net. Allen Greenwood and some other San Diego Trout Volunteers had to do that work themselves. However, there is going to be an on going need for our volunteers to go up, inspect the net and remove any debris that may have built up in front of the net. This will be particularly important after any heavy rains. If you have some time and want to take a nice drive up the mountain after a heavy rain, please contact me via e-mail . This is

not a particularly arduous task. It is a short walk from the parking lot. But, you will need waders, gloves and some trash bags. We strongly suggest going with a buddy just for safety. The Park is still officially closed. You shouldn't have a problem getting in, just tell the Rangers what you are doing and go directly in and out.

The week long backpack trips to work on the Golden Trout Wilderness have not been planned, yet. But there are two drive-in weekend trips to Monache Meadows now posted at <http://www.californiagoldentrout.org/>. Warning: 4 wheel drive is required.

On the local front, we are still doing monthly water sampling on the San Diego River and we hope to be doing



GARY STRAWN

some more work up on Cedar Creek, soon. The answer to last month's quiz is Mildred Falls. It is on Mildred Creek, which joins Cedar Creek a few miles above El Capitan Reservoir, and is spectacular this year. We see it on our monthly trips to monitor the recovery from fire damage in the Eagle Peak Preserve. It is in the San Diego River watershed a few miles south east of Ramona. More info at: <http://www.sandiegoriver.org/>



Allen Greenwood and Bob Stewart of San Diego Trout put the finishing touches on the Block Net at Doane Pond in Palomar Mountain State park



FLY OF THE MONTH

Norb Spitzer's Midgee

Hook: Straight eye TMC 100, size 18, 20 and 22
Thread: White 8/0
Rib: Black 8/0
Post: Rainey's white foam posts
Hackle: Grizzly rooster saddle or neck



I do have one pattern that has been an absolute killer both here and in Colorado. It is tied slightly different from the Brook's Sprout series so I thought I would share it with you.

On the Taylor River one evening It took two three pound browns on almost successive casts from the same eddy. Last year on the San Juan, I fished it successfully every day starting as soon as the fish started taking midges in the film. One evening I took five or six fish in close proximity to two guys who were fishless. I broke one good fish off, re-tied, then re-

captured the recently escaped fish and recovered my other fly.

After all the bragging, I ought to tell you about the fly: It is tied on a standard straight-shank hook like a Tiemco 101. #18 and #20. I think I even did some #22s. No shuck.

The body is white thread ribbed with black thread. Hackle is grizzly tied normally, all behind the post. When fishing it, you carefully apply floatant only to the hackle, or better yet no floatant at all. If all works out, the fly will be suspended vertically in the film with the body hanging straight down.

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.



IRRESISTIBLES SECOND GENERATION

March 5, 2008

The Federation of Flyfishers started a women's education focus and asked the clubs to institute this. The San Diego Flyfishers started a women's flyfishing focus group named the Irresistibles consisting of women who signed up to participate.

Shelly Wagner and I taught flyfishing workshops with emphasis on women's gear and casting. There were 4 or 5 scheduled outings at various lakes. We met other women who flyfished and found women to fish with. Some of us discovered the creeks in other counties.

My question is this:

Are any of you interested in reviving the Irresistibles?

Let me know if you want to attend a social in April. Think about what you want this group to become and what you want to gain from it. Shelly and I are willing to teach another women's flyfishing seminar. We have some very good flyfishing women in our club and learning from each other is a pleasure. The social would be to bring ideas to the table.

"IRRESISTIBLES" - FLYFISHING WOMEN'S SOCIAL

April 17, 2008

TIME: 7:00 p.m. Thursday

PLACE:

(Off Clairemont Mesa Blvd. East of I-15)

Nancy Pitts has offered her home for our first social and planning meeting. Come join us to get acquainted and talk about what type of activities and training we might want to do this year.

If you are running late, you can bring your fast food dinner and sit down and join in.

ANNUAL RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

The annual raffle and silent auction are rapidly approaching. Tickets are in the mail and extra tickets are available. While I am still gathering items for the main table, I encourage any and all of you to make a donation to the event. Be it an item for the main raffle, a gift certificate...can you say, "Stroud's"?...or an item for the silent auction, your active participation is appreciated. You can give your donation to me, **Larry Sorensen**, or any member of the Board. The silent auction this year will enable you to fish the Western Sierras, cast a bamboo rod, tease with flies tied by Eileen Stroud, and land your catch with a hand made landing net. If you are looking for a fishing adventure out of state, I will be taking one angler on a seven day trip to Idaho, sometime in September/October. We are just getting started. Let's buy those tickets and make this event the best ever!





DAVID COLLINS

Any Questions?**7****Lucky Ketcham says....**

I fished the Green River on a camping trip last year and fell in love with the place. It is really not that far away and the scenery running the river is worth the trip. The fishing is the bonus. Bob Pharoah is coordinating a camp out and pontoon boat trip later in May/June.

This trip is not to be confused with Dave's Annual SDFP trip. It is more designed for the frugal fly fisher, like me. We are opening up the trip to anyone that wants to meet us on the river. People will be coming and going at different times to suit their schedules. See Bob for details.

Annual Spring Trip to the Flaming Gorge of the Green River! May 5-9, 2008

Join us this year as we again travel to the Flaming Gorge of the Green River in northern Utah.

This has been the club's premiere trip for over 15 years. The 12 people who went last year had a great time. I pre-reserve the cars, rooms and guides ... you book your own air travel. The cost of the trip including airfare, car transportation, lodging, fishing license and floating guide (for 3 days) is estimated to be \$1,400. Guides (tax and tip included) are about \$240 per day per fisher this year (same as last year), so if you decide to wade without a guide one or more days, you can save on trip costs.

Plan to float at least one day though ... especially if you have never gone before ... it's a great way to see 7 miles of one of the most beautiful rivers you'll ever fish.

As it was last year, some of the guides charge a little less (though they still get raves from people who fished with them last year) ... I try to schedule it so everyone fishes with the less pricey guides, but if that's not possible, preference will be given according to who signs up first.

You have until April 7th to sign up, but the sooner you decide to sign up, the more likely you'll be able to book the "desired" Delta flight to Salt Lake City (It's the least expensive and it's non-stop).

Please sign up soon! If we get more than 12 fishers wanting to go, early signup will allow us time to book more cars, rooms and guides as needed.

I've got all of the details. If interested you can contact me by:

:
:
:



Miramar Lake Fishing Report

March 5, 2008

By Lucky Ketcham

Woolery Summary – Bob Pharoah 7 fish, with two 20”s, three 19”s, an 18” and a 17”. Bernie caught a great 7 pounder and at least 5 or 6 fish, John Beckstrand caught 5, Paul Britting 4 and I only had 3 with a 20 inch fish.

I arrived at the lake, late, 8:30 AM to find Bernie Fink, Paul Britting and John Beckstrand getting ready to launch in their pontoon boats. Bill Hanson and Bob Pharoah were already out in various coves beating the shorelines.

I fished in my little Fish Cat U-boat again, trying to keep the fishing simple. Actually I am too lazy to dig out the big pontoon boat clean off the spilled acids from the battery to stop burning holes in my fishing slacks. Bernie towed me across the lake to Bernardo Cove where we spent most of the morning. We were both bit almost immediately. Bernie had a nice 19 inch fish on a black crystal bugger while I caught a 20 inch fish on a chartreuse western wiggler. I was using a stiff 8 weight bass rod and thought several times that I would have liked to have this big fish on my 4 weight. I used the heavy rod because I found my new reel and 280 grain Rio Striper sinking line. I thought it would handle the sinking line better. We thought it was going to be a great day thinking the 4,600 pounds of freshly planted trout were ready to eat. The fish were there swimming the back ends of the coves, but they did not bite as well as I wanted.

Project Healing Waters

Those of you with better memories than I may recall that in Spring, 2006, your Board of Directors voted to establish this Project here in San Diego. In fact, at the Stroud Banquet in January, 2007, I announced that we were going forward with the Project. Unfortunately, we were unable to get our “foot in the door” at any of the local military hospitals.

For those of you unfamiliar with the concept, Project Healing Waters was originally established by the Federation of Fly Fishers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in early 2005. It was, and remains, a program designed to teach the elements of fly casting, fly tying and “Fly Fishing 101” as part of an overall regimen of physical and emotional therapy to recovering injured and wounded military service personnel. As a result of several recent developments, it now appears we are finally ready to begin (again)!

First, the Project has been so successful nationally it is anticipated it will be in-place in over sixty (60) military hospitals by the end of 2008. The Federation has established a 501(C)(3) organization to oversee ongoing development.

Bob and John Beckstrand did pretty well in the Poway Arm. Bob caught 7 in the back cove and then Beckstrand turned around and caught 5 in the same area, all before 1 PM.

I don’t know how Bill Hanson did. He had to leave early and I did not get a report.

Secondly, through the coincidental good fortune of several of our members, we became acquainted with Carole Katz, a member of the Long Beach Casting Club and the Federation’s Southwest Regional Coordinator and Program Lead at Long Beach VAMC. Once she became aware of our interest, Carole introduced me to Captain Chuck Hayter, USMC, Battalion Commander of the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Pendleton. Captain Hayter has enthusiastically endorsed the Project.

I will be visiting Camp Pendleton next week to meet with Captain Hayter and our first group of 8-10 “students.” The Project will include one meeting per week, on base, for eight weeks. It is my hope to start the regular classes by mid-April; they will generally be held late-afternoon, early evening.

I will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. We need volunteers to assist in some initial casting instruction (there is a pond at Pendleton), followed by 5-6 weeks of fly tying instruction. This is our opportunity to give a little back to those who have sacrificed so much for us. Please be prepared to help. And, in advance, thank you!

Lee McElravy

We watched an Osprey catch one of the fairly large trout. It could barely lift the trout out of the water. It flew 100 yards with the fish’s tail just touching the surface. When it stopped struggling, the Osprey was able to take it up into the trees.

continued on next page



Miramar Lake Fish Report

continued from previous page

I did see several 1 inch long damselfly exoskeletons on the reeds, signaling to me that at least some damselflies are emerging. It may be a good time to use the small olive size 10 or 12 buggers near the weeds.

I only had the one fish when the gang left at 2 PM. It was too nice to quit and I went back to Bob's Poway Arm and caught two more fish. I observed some 15 inch bass moving in the shallows and several redds are being cleaned out. We hope the largemouth bass will chase the trout out of the weeds and they will be more accessible for the kick trollers and casters. It seems strange that we are using a completely different technique for fishing the trout this year than we did last March. I tried trolling of several of the points and bends that produced so many fish last year and did not get a bump.



Lucky Visits the Woodcarving Show

Can you tell which is real and which is carved out of wood?



One of the two shells is a real gastropod shell. The other is a carving, with air brush painting. See if you can tell which is which?

The shell on the left as you look at it is the carving. I could not tell the difference until I looked into the influent siphon opening and could see some denticles or little teeth like projections on the real shell.



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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
 3510 Gayle Street
 San Diego, CA 92115
membership@sandiegoflyfishers.com

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 to the flyfishing community

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
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| 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 | |



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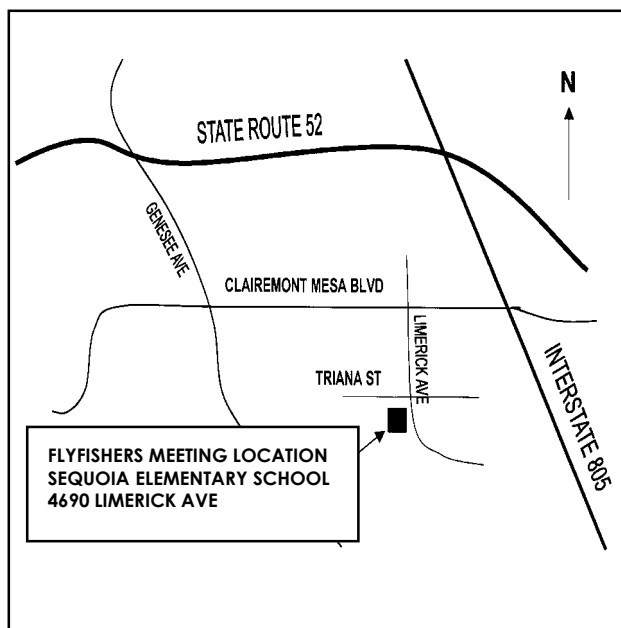
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Howard Knop
Web Page- David Collins
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sdladyfish@cox.net

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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