

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

AUGUST 2012

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 17, No. 08

Mormon Crickets on the B Section of the Green River

A fish tale by Lucky Ketcham

On Saturday, June 27, 2009 a small group of San Diego Fly Fishers floated their pontoon boats down the B section of the Green River in Northeastern Utah. The trip was the second time down this section for Lucky Ketcham, but the first time for Alan Thompson, Bob McKay, Jesse Tuman and Wayne Allen. Our leader, Bob Pharoah and his good friend Sam Gilbert made the float possible by volunteering to run the shuttle and pick us up at the suspension bridge just below the old historic Jarvie Ranch. The total trip was only about 7 miles from the Little Hole recreation area and much shorter than the combined B and C section trip I took last year. We launched at 10 AM and planned to be off the river by 6:00 PM.

The fishing was not wonderful for us; but the scenic trip was good. The weather and wind cooperated and we all ran the class 3 rapids at Red Creek without mishap. I think



everyone enjoyed the experience and the quality fish. The reports from the Trout Creek Outfitters and other river guides were that the B section of the Green was fishing better than the A section with hatches of grasshoppers, Mormon Crickets, brown caddis flies, Yellow Sally stoneflies and Pale Morning Dun mayflies. The rich meadowlands surrounding this lower section of the river were producing earlier hatches of these insects and the brown trout were cooperating for the guide boat clients. SDFF member, Joe Sarnecky and his Salt Lake City, friend, Morris Angel contracted a guide and drift boat the day before and confirmed that bigger trout were biting on the B section. Their guide put them on some good fish and they did see some Mormon Crickets.

Soon after we launched our pontoon boats at the Little Hole boat ramps, we passed some very shallow cobblestone bottom riffles that reminded me of the Bay of Pigs riffle on the Big Horn River in Montana. I pulled over to the side and inspected some of the soft ball and baseball sized round rocks. These rocks seemed to be encrusted with the typical brown algae and rooted aquatic plants we found on the Big Horn. The rocks along the shore are a special habitat that encourages specialized insects and aquatic

animals. The bugs here must be able to withstand the occasional rise and fall of the water level. I pulled on the algae to reveal small scuds or amphipods with their thicker carapace skin. There were many small brown snails that scrape the algae from the rocks and close their little trap door - operculums when the water drops. There were numerous caddis cases with a thick wall of sand and the ability to seal off the ends with silk. Finally I observed some of the net wing midge pupa cases that I thought might be there. This section of the riffle would be a location that guide, Andy Kim would pick to nymph his Yong Specials. I dug out one of my little midge nymph boxes and looked for that little size 18 heavy thread pattern. Yong Special was originally tied with a

No Meeting For August

There will be no meeting for the general membership for the month of August. See you all in September.

Now go out and do some fishing!

continued on page 6

I truly wish I was submitting this *Message* from some far-off mountain cabin resting adjacent to a bubbling spring creek. I am not. I am sitting in my stuffy office, breathing recycled air and living vicariously through the fishing reports of Lucky, Bob, the Bruce(s), etc. Oh, well.

Although it is the middle of summer and many of you are traveling and fishing, Club life goes on. In that regard, several announcements deserve special attention.

First and foremost, as is described elsewhere in this newsletter, a "Celebration of Life" honoring the lives and contributions of **Eileen and Bill Stroud** will be held at the Admiral Baker Clubhouse on Saturday, August 4th. Under the able direction of **Larry Sorensen, Paul Woolery, Rick Vorst** and the **Zimms**, this tribute promises to be a great opportunity to visit with friends and share your timeless stories about Eileen and Bill. We want as many of you to join us as

possible. Because of the way the event has been planned, we ask you to please R.S.V.P. to one of the individuals listed on the announcement.

As part of the August 4th Celebration, your Board would like to publish a special edition of the *Finny Facts* dedicated entirely to Bill and Eileen and consisting of pictures, stories and anecdotes contributed by Club members and friends. We will have copies of this special edition available for attendees at the Celebration. Please submit your snippets and stories to me (in Word format) at [no later than Friday, July 27th](#) for inclusion in this special issue.

After twelve years of untiring commitment, **Mona and Sam Morebello** have decided to retire from their roles as organizers of our meeting hosts. They have done a remarkable job and deserve a "thank you" from everyone for their efforts in keeping us organized on the first Monday of every month. We do



need a new volunteer to takeover this function. Remember-you are not volunteering to set-up every month, but rather to organize others to perform this function in 2013. Mona and Sam have shared a wonderful collection of their forms and instruction sheets, which I would be please to pass-on to a worthy successor. Please let me hear from you.

Lastly, please recall we have no general meeting in August and keep in mind the Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers Faire in Mammoth Lakes September 13-16, 2012. See you on August 4th. Tight lines!

Lee McElravy





Please Join Us

Saturday, August 4, 2012

For a

“Celebration of life” for Bill & Eileen Stroud

Time: 11:00 am

Place: Admiral Baker Clubhouse on the Deck

Refreshments provided:

Street Taco Station, Fruit and Cheese Platter, Glazed Chicken Drumettes,
Chips and Dip, Beer and Wine.

Casual attire, fish decorated clothing desirable.

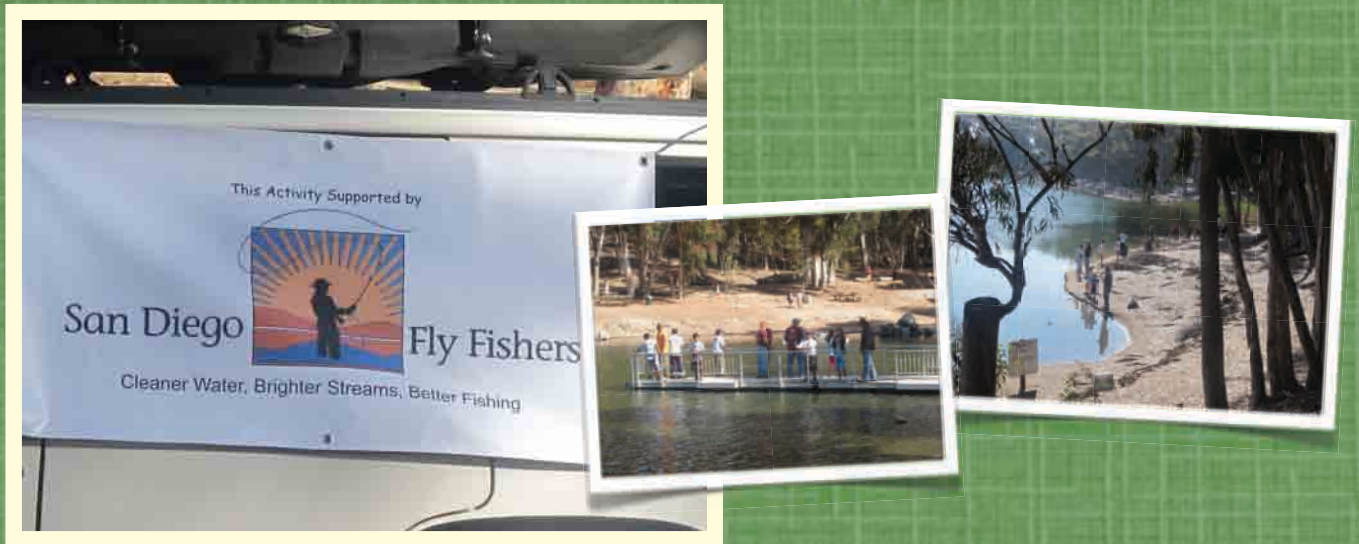
If you plan to attend please contact one of the following prior to July 30:

Larry Sorensen at _____

Paul Woolery at _____

Rick Vorst at Stroud Tackle

Chollas Lake



STAR/PAL Fishing Derby

On June 30, 2012 Chollas Lake hosted over 200 children from the area to a day of free fishing, lunch and prizes.

The day before the fishing derby volunteers from your club assembled over 300 rods and reels for the derby. Police Officers and Police Cadets from Star/Pal assisted. Lunch was also provided.

Besides San Diego Fly Fishers, other clubs and City and County Departments volunteered their services. Barnacle Bill and the Road Rangers Bass Club provided the casting instruction for the kids. Volunteers from the Probation

Department worked at the registration desks and repair stations. Police Officers and Sheriff Deputies assisted the kids with their fishing. Fire Fighters from Station 26 started and maintained a fire to cook hot dogs.



Once again Brian Young and the California Department Fish and Game volunteers provided training stations and instruction for the kids.

Star/Pal appreciates all those volunteers who donated their time.

The Officers and Board of SDFF want to thank the following members for their time.

Lee Anderson, Kerrol Beck, Lee McElravy, Dan McKirnan, Sam and Mona Morebello, Barry Pechersky, Art Reifman, Larry Sorenson, Bob Stafford, Gary Strawn, Alan Thompson, Shelley Wagner, Lew Walsh, Wes Woll, Gretchen Yearous, Louie and Gordy Zimm and Paul Woolery.





Mormon Crickets

continued from page 1

Korean thread, but Andy Kim found that Coats and Clark, Summer Brown thick button and carpet thread would mimic the color and ribbing of the natural pupa. I tied the little nymph on 24 inches of 5X tippet off the bend of a large foam hopper. A small size #6 split shot helped keeps the fly just off the bottom in the shallow fast water. I caught two rainbow trout (15" and 16") in that riffle within the first 15 minutes of launching. I thought it was going to be a wonderful day. We fished that area with other nymphs for 20 minutes before drifting down to deeper water.

About $\frac{3}{4}$ mile below the riffles Wayne and Bob McKay started reporting the siting of hundreds of large reddish brown Mormon Crickets on the rocks along the right hand bank. I was fishing the left hand bank and did not see anything. As I crossed the river I looked at a large slow eddy and saw some orange tan things floating in the foam and seams. My first impression was that they were hundreds of catkins from some birch or aspen trees. They looked like the little seed cones from the birches that fall into the Neversink and Delaware rivers in New York. As I moved closer my old eyes could see that they very large 2 to 3 inch long crickets. The females had 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long spears or ovipositors sticking out of the rear of their abdomens. Most of the hundreds of crickets were orange/tan with one in 50 being black or black with green markings. At first I thought the black crickets might be males, but then there were some with ovipositors. This was my first observation of a "band" of Mormon Crickets on one of their migrations. Thousands or millions were on the move, eating all

the young tender grass in their path. The band was piled up on the south side of the river and forcing the front line into the water.

References report the Mormon Crickets occasionally group together and migrate forward for the need of protein and from the fear of cannibalism. If they fall behind their hungry brothers will eat them.

As I pulled into the giant eddy, 50 or 60 crickets climbed aboard my canvas Creek Company pontoon boat. The little claws on their feet caught onto my canvas shoes and Simms waders. Within a few minutes I was flicking them off my fishing vest, sleeves of my shirt and off my neck and hat. I did not mind being a rescue boat for the stranded floating crickets but a three inch bug crawling on my neck was too much. I know enough about crickets that I was



certain they could not bite or sting me, but even friendly bugs crawling on me gives me the willies. I flicked one into the water two feet off to my left and was surprised to hear the big splash of a trout taking the bug on the surface.

There were a few large fish feeding on the crickets in the foam line or they would take them mid stream. We thought our large Fat Alberts and brown Chernobly Ants

would work magic. Wrong! There were so many real live crickets and the fish had been feeding on an endless supply all morning. After watching our large foam flies just sit there for 15 or 20 minutes we thought: "How many 3" long crickets can a brown trout eat in one day?" One of the passing guides suggested we try something else, like a streamer or Zebra midge. I was fishing a large brown grasshopper with a trailing black paracricket. Both were tied on 3X tippet to prevent break offs. I started to get some raises and hits as I moved down river from the heaviest concentration of crickets. The fish down stream were still looking for the straggler crickets. The trout would make a splashy hit on the big hopper but it failed to take the hook. I missed 5 fish in a row and thought that maybe the bend in the hook was broken or the straight line of 3X tippet was keeping the fly out of the fish's mouth. I sort of looked at the fly and hook from a distance of 10 feet. It looked okay to me.

After the 7th miss in a row, I pulled the fly up close and found that the trailing fly tippet had tangled around the eye of the hopper hook. It had pulled down to the smashed barb and made a perfect tight "Weedguard." It was so good at protecting the point, that no fish could possibly get hooked. If you are missing that many hits, make sure to look carefully at the fly and the leader connections. I would have had a much better fish count on the B section if I did not miss **Eleven Hits** in a row. I finally hooked and landed two nice brown trout, ending the day with 4 fish. The other members of our group had similar results. Bob McKay caught 5, Jesse Tuman - 7, Wayne Allen -

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Mormon Crickets

continued from previous page



4 and Allan Thompson lost several while he concentrated on trying to controlling the new pontoon boat. Allan's shoulders were pretty sore after a long day on the water. It is difficult to learn to use the currents and eddies to move around and control the pontoon boat. If you are as strong as Allan, you are tempted to use your oars more than your fins. Eight hours on the water will make you look for the Ben Gay and linament for your shoulders. Red Creek was running high and muddy from all the recent rains. The reports from the fly shops were accurate and the dry fly fishing slowed down after we reached the off colored water. The fish had a harder time seeing our flies.

One of the best and most exciting parts of the river was the class 3 Red Creek rapids. I was a little apprehensive because I was the leader and responsible to get our group through this section. We all parked our pontoon boats and surveyed the river and the stretch of white water. Wayne followed the advice of some guides and climbed to the top of the cliffs on the right hand side of the river. The view looking down on the

bubbling white water and rocks was reported to be better than the views we had from the level bank on the left side. I took a few pictures from our vantage point. Too bad Wayne did not have his camera from the bird's eye view. I learned from the launch ramp rangers that we should avoid the red cliff side of the river. Boats running that side would have a tendency to be pulled into the cliffs about half way down the rapids. Years of water erosion have cut into the bottom of the cliffs and there are large boulders in the boat path. The left side of the rapids is much safer. I am not sure the guys fully believed me when I told them we wanted to run straight down all that white water and over that giant bump at the top of the run. We wanted them to keep their feet and the 9 foot long pontoons pointed down stream. Just use the oars to keep oriented and on course. Prevent the pontoons from turning to the side. Going over the big bump sideways with only a four foot wide platform might cause the boat to turn over. We all made it without mishap. I went first and almost flipped on a rock lower in the rapids. I turned sideways to look at the boats coming behind

me and did not pay enough attention to unknown smaller rocks. Even the leader must pay attention.

We used walkie talkie radios to maintain communications. Around 6 PM we rounded the bend at Indian

Crossing and observed the first of two boat ramps. Wayne and Bob McKay arrived at Indian Crossing and were confused when they heard Bob Pharoah on the radio saying he was at the Jarvie Ranch. Bob M. and Wayne thought they were ready to head home. No they had to travel another half mile to the little suspension bridge takeout. Sam Gilbert and Bob Pharoah were waiting with our trucks just as planned. We loaded up the boats and took the long dirt road back to camp.

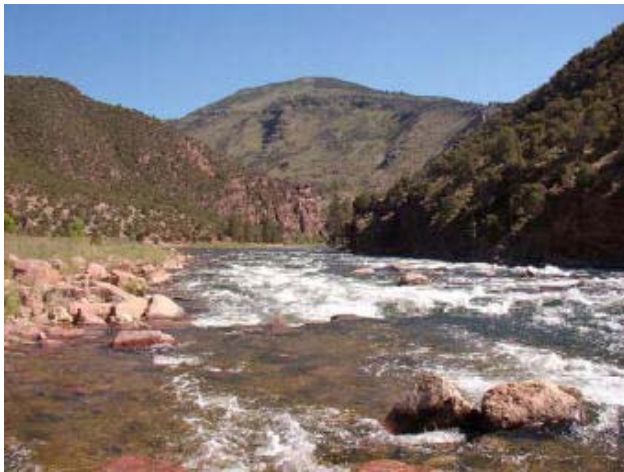


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Mormon Crickets

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Take this left side white water run – really!



Avoid the right side near cliffs.

How to Remove a Tick

A nurse discovered a safe, easy way to remove ticks where they automatically withdraw themselves when you follow her simple instructions. Read this one as it could save you from some major problems.

Tick Removal:

Spring is here and the ticks will soon be showing their heads. Here is a good way to get them off you, your children, or your pets. Give it a try.

Please forward to anyone with children, hunters or dogs; or anyone who even steps outside in summer!

"I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the

middle of a head full of dark hair, etc."

"Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15–20); the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and that was frequently), and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me.."

"Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can't see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck to her back and she couldn't reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"

Please pass on. Everyone needs this helpful hint.

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.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Basic Black Stonefly

Hook: 3XL Nymph Hook, size 10, (TMC 200R makes nice stoneflies)
Thread: Black Uni 6/O
Tail and feelers: Black Biots (or black moose mane for antennae on smaller patterns.)
Abdomen: Amber d-rib (under taper - black poly-dub) Top blackened w/black Pantone
Wing Case: Black Crow coated with Flexament
Thorax: Black Seal, (or Angora goat substitute)



Skwala is larger size 10, Small winter stones are smaller, size 16 is probably best per Dave Hughes.
Flies, recipes and photos by Norb Spitzer, March 7, 2010

Bug-eyed Stone

Hook: 3XL Nymph Hook, size 10
Thread: Black Uni 6/O
Tail and feelers: Black Biots
Abdomen: Clear d-rib Top blackened w/black Pantone
Wing Case: Black Crow coated with Flexament
Thorax: Black Seal, (or Angora goat substitute)
Eyes: Black bead-chain

Norb says the body on this fly is a little too slender and the thorax is too short.

Lucky Notes: I agree for a size 10, black or brown winter stoneflies; but for some of the very small stones in size 14 or 16 the abdomen would be about right. A little thread or tapered black dubbing under the D-rib would help.



Sept. 13-16

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFF SCHEDULES MASSIVE MAMMOTH FLY FISHING FAIRE

Plans for the Southwest Council FFF's 24 local club Fly Fishing Faire in Mammoth are coming together.

"Slated for Sept. 13-16, The Fly Fishing Faire will be a potpourri of the sport with clinics, workshops, films, casting, fly-tying, vendor displays and every aspect of the sport aimed at conventional anglers who want to 'convert', casual anglers, fly-fishing fanatics and weekend visitors to the Mammoth area." . Adult admission is \$10 with children and teens age 16 and under free.

One admission is good for all Faire days. Some workshops and seminars are included in the Faire admission; other classes will have separate registration fees. Hours are Thurs., 2-5; Fri., 8-5; Sat.; 8-5; and Sun., 9-3. The Faire will be headquartered at Cerro Coso Community College, 101 College Parkway in Mammoth.

"We scheduled the event to coincide with the end-of-summer Eastern Sierra caddis hatch, the start of fall colors, the beginning of school and much less traffic," .

Featured film presentation will be The International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4), 13 short and feature length films – about two hours – produced by professional and amateur filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly-fishing.

Fly-fishing film topics scheduled range from steelhead in Northern British Columbia to chasing multiple species in Costa Rica.

Programs, classes or seminars will include:

- On-stream line mending workshops by Guy Jeans, Kern River Fly Shop, Kernville;
- Hot Creek and where to fish in the Eastern Sierra by Kevin Peterson, manager, Hot Creek Ranch;
- Basic to Advanced Fly-Tying, Steve Fernandez, Sierra Pacific Flyfishers, San Fernando Valley;
- Tying Extended Body Flies, Naomi Okamoto, Pasadena Casting Club;
- Fishing Lake Crowley from the shore, Ernie Gulley, Deep Creek Fly Fishers;
- Rush Creek/Silver Lake float-tubing, Streamborn Fly Fishers;
- All day rod building class, Chiaki Harami, Southwestern Sierra Fly Fishers;
- Building custom leaders and how to fish them (on-stream instruction) on Hot Creek, Mas Okui, Sierra Pacific Flyfishers;
- Beginning Digital Photography workshops, Michael Miller, professional photographer, California State University, Northridge and Pasadena Casting Club.

Professional fly-fishing guides and instructors for the Faire will come from the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide Assn.; Ken's Sporting Goods, Bridgeport; and the Trout Fly Troutfitter, Mammoth Lakes.

There will also be golf, spa sessions and other activities for the entire family.

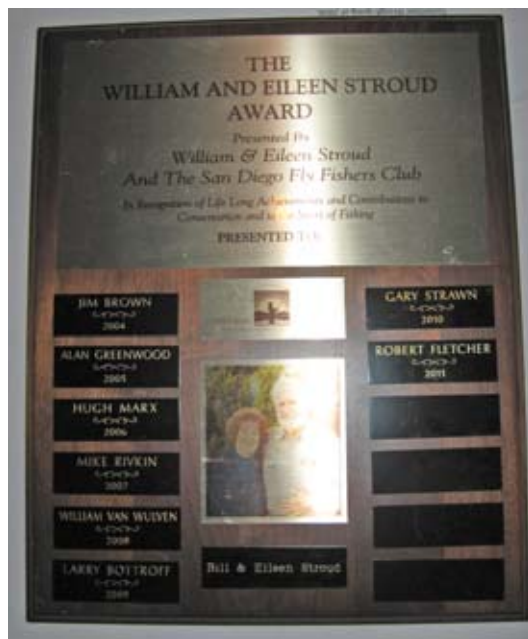
According to Fernandez, who is coordinating the tying, "Many of the best fly-tiers in California will conduct hands-on workshops demonstrating productive Eastern Sierra patterns."

Among the vendors will be fly-fishing shops expected to have end-of-the-year specials on close-out 2012 merchandise as well as an advance peek at holiday gifts.

For advance registration and a list of programs, fly-fishing films, presenters, fly-tiers and events, visit the Faire website at www.regonline.com/flyfishingfaire



Recipients of the
Stroud Award
 2004-Jim Brown
 2005-Allen Greenwood
 2006- Hugh Marx
 2007- Mike Rivkin
 2008- Bill Van Wulven
 2009- Larry Bottroff
 2010- Gary Strawn
 2011- Bob Fletcher



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.

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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, Bud Olsen

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

Cutoff date for **September FINNY FACTS**
 articles---Friday August 17th

Send articles to:
 Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

Thanks!!

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

Paul Woolery

Recipients of the: **GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

For unselfish and outstanding service
 to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2004-Joe Bain
1992-Bob Camp	2005-Jim Reeg
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2006-John Kasten
1994-Ed Velton	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1995-Bob Wisner	2008-Louie Zimm
1996-Gary Hilbers	2009-Warren Lew
1997-Jack Bentley	2010- Paul Woolery
1998-Gordie Zimm	2011-Gary Strawn
1999-Gretchen Yearous	
2000-Tom Smith	
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki	
2002-Larry Sorensen	
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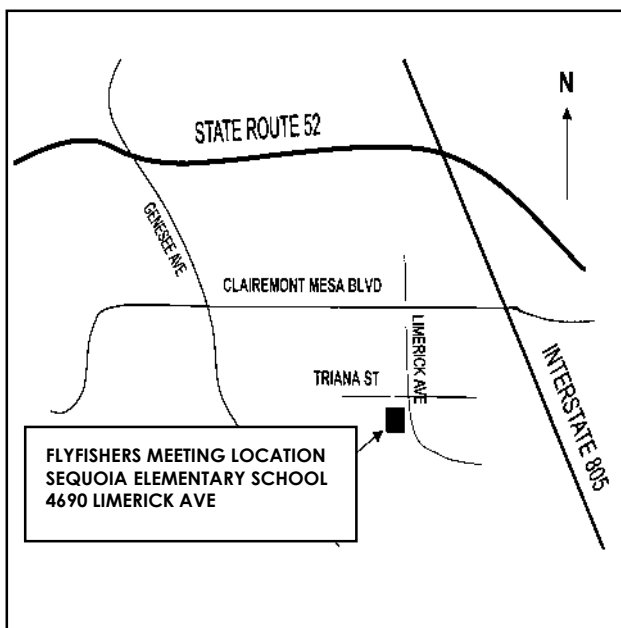
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 David Collins
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com

Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near 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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