

SDFF Annual Raffle Set for June 5th

The **SDFF ANNUAL RAFFLE** has been set for **June 5th**. The Annual Raffle takes the place of the monthly meeting, and it is our biggest fund raiser of the year! **Raffle tickets are on sale now**—five for \$15—and can be purchased at the monthly meetings, from Stroud Tackle and San Diego Fly Shop, and from Patrick Case. In addition to the drawing of Raffle Tickets for prizes, we are also going to have a Silent Auction for the more unique prizes.

Departing from the last couple of years, this year we are allowing you to win as many prizes as you have winning tickets (you will not be limited to one prize, and there will be no trading). **Therefore, the more tickets you purchase, the greater your chances of winning one or more prizes!!!**

While retailers and equipment manufacturers offer the club discounts on fly fishing equipment and materials, **the success of the Annual Raffle relies on the generous donations of our members**. So please contribute generously to Annual Raffle—100 percent of the net proceeds go to SDFF community service and conservation



Jim Tenuto "the Storyteller", "Mr. Jocular", "the SPAMmeister" will be the host of this year's Fly Fishers Annual Raffle.

activities! Items you can donate include rods, reels, all kinds of fishing equipment and clothing, tying equipment and materials, flies, gift certificates for equipment, dinners, and lodging, jewelry, books...and, of course, cash.

All donations can be brought to the monthly meeting, or brought or mailed to San Diego Fly Fishers, c/o

Thank you for your support of the SDFF Annual Raffle.

May 10, 2000

Eastern Sierra Fishing Turning Out to Be a Winner

Tom Loe

My thoughts go out to all those who have not had an opportunity to experience what is turning out to be one of the finest early seasons we have had in a long time. For those of you fortunate enough to have cast a fly this season, you know what I am speaking about.

A mild winter, beautiful spring weather and what appears to be an above average spawn in most areas, is making for some memorable days here in the Eastern Sierra.

I must say that this spring spawn is definitely the best we have had in a number of years. Most of the tributaries leading into Crowley Lake are packed with 12"-18" rainbows. The East Walker's confluence into Bridgeport Reservoir is also laden with a solid population of spawners.

The barbed-wire fences, erected to prevent cattle from entering and destroying habitat and river banks, appear to be paying off in spades. These have been in place on several of the tributaries for a few years now.

If you do decide to fish these areas, please be extra careful of trampling spawning redds and disturbing actively spawning fish. When releasing fish in these areas take extra care to keep the fish completely submerged while removing your BARBLESS hook. Try not to

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REMINDER

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

**John Beckstrand &
Lloyd Jefferies**

Thank you, Mona Morebello

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, June 5, 2000

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)



San Diego Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

A **NUAL RAFFLE.** The June 5th meeting will be devoted to the **ANNUAL RAFFLE.** This is our biggest fund raiser of the year, the proceeds of which go to our conservation and community service activities. I first want to thank all the members and friends of San Diego Fly Fishers that have generously donated prizes for the raffle—it is your support that makes the raffle a success each year.



PATRICK CASE

Besides supporting the activities of the club, this is always a fun event. To ensure it is a fun evening, the witty, funny, king of story telling, **Jim Tenuto** has volunteered to be our Master of Ceremonies.

We have made a few changes to the raffle event this year to make it even more enjoyable. These include limiting the

number of prizes this year, and concentrating on overall quality. In the last few years we have had to literally run through the raffle to give away to many prizes of dubious value to the members. This year the raffle will be at a more relaxed pace, allowing the ticket holders more time to savor the terrific prizes. And this year you can win as many prizes as you have winning tickets!—so the more tickets you buy, the more chances you have to take home one or more prizes.

And the prizes are GREAT this year, including Sage and Winston rods; Ross, Bauer and Tibor reels; a float tube; a pontoon boat; two tying vises; and *much more!* Now the rest is up to you. Our goal this year is to sell \$4,000 in tickets, the net proceeds of which will go toward our conservation projects (see below). Tickets are 5 for \$15, and can be pur-

chased at the meeting the night of the raffle, and from Stroud Tackle and San Diego Fly Shop.

San Mateo Creek Restoration. Speaking of conservation projects, SDFF is a member of the coalition working for the restoration of the San Mateo Creek watershed. We recently learned that \$800,000 is in place for this work! A restoration working group is now being formed, and the club is looking for an individual to represent SDFF. This is an opportunity to be part of this historical event. This will without doubt be the most significant local fisheries restoration project in any of our lifetimes. What seemed like a long-shot dream a few months ago is now about to become reality. If you feel you want to commit to this project as the representative of San Diego Fly Fishers, please give me a call.

See you at the raffle...and please bring lots of cash and checks!

Tight lines

DID YOU KNOW

Here is a simple formula for determining cubic feet per second (CFS) flow rates:

Measure the Width of the creek in feet. Measure the Depth of the creek in feet. Measure 100 feet of the creek down stream.

Now find something that floats. Get your watch ready to time how long it takes the floating item to travel 100 feet.

Example:

The creek is 10 feet wide, 2 feet deep, and the floating time is 60 seconds for 100 feet.

Now use the formula:

Width (ft) X Depth (ft) X Length (ft) / Time (sec)

10 ft. X 2 ft. X 100 ft. / 60 sec. = 33.33 CFS (Cubic Feet per Second)

(by Rich Lobrovich of the Tracy Fly Fishers of California for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)



ANNUAL RAFFLE

June 5th Meeting

Drawing ■ Silent Auction

Over \$3,500 in Great Prizes...Major Prizes Include...

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Buck's Bag "Southfork" pontoon boat | ■ Fly Tool vise |
| ■ Buck's Bag "Mustang" float tube | ■ Fly selections |
| ■ Winston rod—IM6, 5 wt., 9' | ■ Hook and Tackle Co. gift certificate |
| ■ Sage rod—890-3 RPLXi | ■ Chest packs |
| ■ Scott rod gift certificate (40% off retail) | ■ H & M Landing—½ day trip for two |
| ■ Ross reel—Canyon #2 | ■ Bushnell binocular |
| ■ Bauer reel—LM2 | ■ Fly plate |
| ■ Tibor <i>Light</i> reel | ■ Lunch at Jakes (\$30 value) |
| ■ Regal vise—RPS7 | ■ <i>And Much More...</i> |

Buy Your Tickets Now...5 for \$15

On Sale at **Stroud Tackle** and **San Diego Fly Shop**

FREE Indicator Kit With Purchase of First 150 Books of 5 Tickets!!!

The Rules

- **There is no limit to the number of tickets you may purchase.** Therefore, you should attempt to purchase more tickets than anyone else.
- **There is no limit on the number of prizes you may win.** Therefore, you should buy lots of tickets to increase your odds of winning more than one prize.
- **You do not have to be present to win.** However, you have up to 45 days to pick up your prize at the office of ; the prizes will not be brought to any subsequent meetings. After 45 days, un-claimed prizes will be considered forfeited, and donated to the club for its use.



Some Info on Fishing Near Helena, MT and New Findings On Whirling Disease

Our former Pres, now expatriate to MT, Glen Paul (gpaul1120@aol.com) has provided info on stream fishing near Helena and some new stuff on WD research.

Fishing around Helena is very good, says Glen. It's been a low-snow, light rain, little runoff year; Glen thinks it looks like a record drought year.

Very little pre-flood emptying of the reservoirs to prepare for snow melt makes for shallow, easily waded rivers at this time of year. Fishing has been good - nymphs in the am and BWO's in pm.

Glen reports that the MO below Holter Dam has three spawning tributaries - Little Prickly Pear, Dearborn, and Sheep Creek (respectively about 2, 10, and 20 miles downstream.). So far, Dearborn and Sheep Creek are WD free, but Little Prickly Pear is now infected. Glen believes this was the best small stream in Montana and only about 15 minutes away. There are still lots of big spawners in it and will be to about July, but the resident "bows" are pretty well gone. Browns are present and fish well but not like they used to when you could take a dozen fish an evening, with half over 14 inches. It may be some time before "they used to be".

WHIRLING DISEASE IS TAKING ITS TOLL ON THE MISSOURI RIVER--A news clipping sent me by Glen reports that when biologists counted fish above Cascade (south of Great Falls a few months ago, they found record numbers of big, heavy rainbow trout, but a disturbing decline in numbers of smaller "bows". This is an indication that WD confirmed



BOB WISNER

in the MO three years ago below Holter Dam, is taking its toll. Counts in October found populations of 2 year olds and over, were up 100% over the historic long term count on one stretch of the river, and 300% on another. But trout less than a year old were down by 38% in the first stretch and 73% on the other. A state biologist reports that the infection rate and

intensity of WD on the MO has risen; along with this he stated that "We have the best fishing we've ever had but it's probably time to prepare for real impacts." He feels that the growth he's seen may actually be the realization of WD -because there is less competition. When WD hit the Madison in 1994, rainbows declined by 90%. Presently, on Little Prickly Pear Creek, the decline is also 90%. The biologist predicts that the MO has a top heavy population that cannot be sustained. "The bottom isn't dropping out but the decline will be steady and over a number of years."

NEW FINDINGS AND FACTS ON WHIRLING DISEASE—One of the clippings sent by Paul indicated that optimism is strong, with biologists reporting that the Madison (Montana's first victim of WD) is well on its way to becoming the showcase of how to beat WD. Biologist Pat Byorth reports that last year, yearling "bows" in the Pine Butte section of the Upper Madison took the highest jump since WD was discovered in very the late '80's. Biologists say the increase in rainbow trout (the hardest hit species), was the result of the high spring flows in 1998. They think the high flows diluted the infectious agent (tams)

and cooled the water, which also helped minimize exposure of young trout at a critical time. Tams attack trout only during the short period before cartilage hardens into bone.

Biologists believe that that fact provides an opening to combat WD. "It's all about timing", believes Dick Vincent, Montana State coordinator. "If we can find a way to get trout to hatch at the right temperatures, when high water levels can actually dilute the parasites (tams) effectiveness, we may soon be able to fit a management scheme together with habitat enhancements to benefit young trout, and get close to a long time solution. This seems to be the most important finding WD for the year. But in addition, it was found that not all rivers and creeks are infected the same. Some have mild infections which young trout can I survive.

Researchers have also learned a lot about the worm that hosts the infectious agent (tubifex and tams, respectively). One tubifex worm can produce more than 30,000 tams at water temperatures of 45° to 58° F. The worm does best in streams with lots of organic materials. This fact forms a program for this summer - find areas where tubifex is doing well and map places where the infectious rates are highest. The hope is to find ways to let trout avoid such places. Biologist Byorth believes the Madison rainbows are beginning to do just that. He has noticed an increase in young fish that grow more slowly than normal. He thinks those fish may have spawned in the colder and relatively infection-free parts of the river's tributaries. Before WD the fish that spawned in the tributaries had difficulty competing with those born in the richer waters of the river, and by the time the tributary fish migrated to the river, their cohorts were larger and could easily out compete them. Whirling

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JACK BENTLEY

**Any Questions?
Call Jack Bentley at**

New Mexico on the Agenda for the Fall

San Juan River Trip October 8-13

This is a great trip, beautiful scenery, low water, easy wading, and everyone catches fish. **\$IGN UP EARLY.** An early commitment will lower your cost (Paul Mitchell and Lynn Atnip are helping with the planning). Call Jack Bentley for details at

Whirling Disease

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Disease changed the equation. By spawning in tributaries, the young fish stay out of harm's way when they are most vulnerable. Over time, these tributary fish could have a large impact on trout numbers in the river.

Another possibility may be finding a different rainbow population or strain that spawns outside the time when the tams are most numerous. Experimenting is underway to find if hatchery trout can be fooled into spawning earlier. Also, attempts are underway to change the habitat in the river to decrease the numbers of tubifex worms in certain hot spots.

Biologists feel there are a lot of reasons to be optimistic. We can only hope a significant portion of that optimism pays off.

AT LONG LAST CONGRESS HAS introduced legislation, binding in all U.S. waters, to ban the hideously cruel and wasteful practice of slicing off one or more fins from a living shark, then discarding the live animal back to the water. The fins are dried and sold to oriental markets as the basis for shark fin

soup. The bill directs the Sec'y of State to work for a similar ban worldwide.

The practice of "finning" was banned in federal waters of the U.S. Atlantic in 1993 but it has expanded dramatically in portions of the U.S. Pacific. The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has refused to ban finning,

despite concerns over this great loss of sharks expressed by scientists, conservationists, fishermen and the Hawaii State Legislature.

The numbers of sharks killed in the Hawaiian longline fishery has climbed from 2,289 in 1991 to 60,857 in 1998.



AND THE WINNER IS...?

Congratulations to all club members who have paid their current dues. You will continue to receive *FINNY FACTS*, wear an official name tag and patch, and best of all, be eligible for the monthly club drawing for cash\$\$\$\$. Name tags have been resorted. Those who have not renewed will find their name tags removed from the wooden cases. If you cannot locate your name tags, please visit the membership table at our next meeting.

Renew soon, be a Winner and support your club!

Single membership \$30.00 or Family membership (including spouse) \$40.00

**ANNUAL SDFF
RAFFLE IS
COMING
JUNE 5TH**

**PRIZES GALORE
BUY YOUR
TICKETS NOW!!**

5 FOR \$15



San Diego Fly Fishers
Week-end Trips
2000

Trip Description	Length of Trip	Date of time of Year	Trip Leader
Bay fishing , Glorieta Bay	One Day, Saturday	May 13 th 7:00 A.M.	Todd Shetter
San Diego Lake fishing-Bass Lower Otay at the Concession Stand	One Day, Saturday	June 10 th 6:30 A.M.	Ed Velton
Surf fishing in San Diego Location to be announced	One Day, Saturday	June 17 th 6:00 A.M.	C.T. Reinert
Eastern Sierra	Weekend	September 22 nd to 24 th	G. Gates

If you are interested, call either George Gates or the Trip Leader.

Equipment requirements:

Bass Fishing

- Float Tube
- 6 wt. Rod with both a sink line and a floating line if possible
- Tippet material in the 8 to 10 lb. range, plus some 20 lb. for a butt section
- Fly's, woolly buggers in any color you like, but definitely some green, black and brown.
- Poppers for service fishing.
- Fly's should have weed guards if possible.

Surf Fishing

- 6 or 8 wt. Rod with sink tip line
- 6 to 10 lb. leader, non tapered, six feet in length
- Fly's include: surf perch size 6 & 8 and deceiver patterns 1/0 to 2/0



FLY OF THE MONTH

Louie's Bay Fly

Hook:	Mustad 3407 sizes #8-#2
Thread:	Monocord brown or black
Body:	Brown Antron dubbing
Wing:	Black barred brown squirrel-tail hair with two or three brown sparkle rubber-legs
Eyes:	Dumbbell Lead Eyes 1/8"-3/16" depending on size of fly
Weed-guard:	20-25 lb. Mason monofilament



Tying instructions:

1. Sharpen hook. Bend down barb.
2. Start thread at eye and wrap back to start of curve of hook, then wrap forward to just above the point of the hook. Wrap extra turns at this point to create a cushion for the dumb-bell eyes. Directly opposite the point of the hook and below the shank away from the point, tie in the dumb-bell eye, using a figure-eight wrap. This will cause the fly to ride point-up. Apply head cement to the wraps around the eyes.
3. Tie in the sparkle rubber legs aft of the eyes, so that they extend beyond the bend one and a half times the hook length.
4. Tie in a generous hunk of squirrel tail aft of the eyes to extend a bit beyond the end of the sparkle rubber-legs.
5. Generously apply Antron dubbing to the tying thread and wrap forward from the bend, around the eyes up to well short of the eye of the hook. It is important here to build up the dubbing to make a substantial body similar to a fat nymph.
6. Attach weed guard just behind the eye of the hook, bending the mono around the shank so that the two ends point back over and above the point of the hook. Use tying thread to bend the mono to the correct angle.
7. Whip finish and apply head cement to the final wraps behind the hook-eye.

This fly is effective, used in eel-grass beds in San Diego and Mission Bay for Spotted Bay Bass and Halibut. A small split shot in front of the hook improves the action. It is also effective in the smaller sizes without the weed guard and without the split-shot for barred surf-perch.

Louie Zimm



Save Your Wooly Buggers and Make Them Interesting in the Process

Recently I've discovered a new way to make flies more weed resistant and enhance their attractiveness in the process. At least they look more attractive to me. And, while they don't catch any more fish, they don't catch any less and the flies do come back to me, again and again, even in the densest weeds. I find that cool particularly since I like to poke around for bass and blue gill and I hate getting hung up. I don't like to stop fishing and go through the painful process of extracting my fly from the weeds, bushes and what-have-you. After approaching an attractive spot, I don't want to ruin it all by having to tube into the bushes and tug and pull until I either lose the lure or retrieve it, usually in sad shape.

You can use this process to modify existing wooly buggers and greatly improve their weed resistance — remember, there is no such thing as a weedless lure. Any lure can get hung up or wrapped around an obstruction. But you can greatly reduce the probability of this happening without appreciably decreasing the hookup potential. And, the resulting lure is very attractive.

If you're starting from scratch, bend the



Figure 1



ED VELTON

hook's eye up, in the direction of the hook's point, as shown in Figure 1.

This will put the center of gravity of the hooks mass below the eye of the hook, where it's tied to the line. That alone is a great step in increasing the weed resistance of the hook since, when pulled through the water, it will tend to ride hook up with the line acting as a weed guard. Don't overdo it or you will weaken — maybe even break — the hook shank at

the bend.

Now go ahead and do your wooly bugger just like you always do. There are about a million ways to do this and some of the most effective are the ones that look the worst. I remember Leo Bergivin telling me not to throw away my sorry looking wooly buggers since, on any given day, they may catch fish.

Once you are finished take your scissors and clip off the hackles at the front of the fly on the sides. Don't bother the top and bottom. What you want is a flat spot, on each side of the fly up front, a space where you can paste on 2 hackle strips. Put one hackle strip on each side of the fly with the but end on the fly and the tip in the direction of the hook point and tilted slightly forward. Peel off the hackles on the aft side of the stem before you paste them on. You paste the hackles on with fabric paint. Just dab some paint on to the cleared sides of the fly with a tooth pick. Then put a little blob on the hackle at the but end and stick em on.

It takes about 12 hours for this to set up so the hackle stems won't pull off. But,

to be safe you should put on a second — overcoat — on the paste up to ensure structural integrity. After that, don't worry, the hackle isn't coming off easily if at all. Now simply pull the hackle back toward the tail and tie it on, just like you'd do a weed guard. As you do it will fan out into a most attractive shape. You can cut the overhang off, leave it on, or wrap it on to increase the attractiveness of the fly.

If all this sounds complicated and difficult to understand just look at the 3 examples in figures 2, 3, and 4. Those graphics should make the process clear. It's really very simple.

Figure 2 is an example of reworking an old wooly bugger. Two strips of hackle are pasted on, bent back and tied on at the tail and the left over portions are left on to act as tail fins. Note that in finishing the fly fabric paint eyes are used to hide all the construction material.



Figure 2

This is one of my first flies; years old. It's been reworked many times and has caught fish. Since the eye isn't turned up and no foam is tied on the shank toward the hook point, the fly will go hook down through the water. The fly line won't act as a weed guard. But, it will have a weed guard on it made up of the hackle stem. It may look weak but it's really strong where it has to be. When pressure is put on the peak of the weed guard it will deflect easily, allowing for easy access to the hook. But

continued on next page



it has surprising strength when pressure is applied at the front. It will slide weeds and bushes over it, preventing hang-up. Of course, nothing deters slime. You have to pull the fly out of the water frequently and clear it of slime. Yuck.



Figure 3

Figure 3 is an another example of reworking an existing wooly bugger. This is one that I had turned the eye up and tied on a chunk of foam up front on the point side of the hook shank. Here I pasted the hackle on to hide the foam, tied it on to the tail and, since I had a nice bushy fluff tail, clipped off the unused portion of the hackle. This fly has caught many fish in

the past. If you make your flys weed resistant they stay around for a long time. I had one fly for years and finally lost it by dropping it in the water. I figure it caught over 80 fish before I lost it, mostly blue gill.


Figure 4 is a new fly, built from scratch with the hackle stem weed guard in mind. You can't see it but there is a chunk of foam above the eye on the point side of the hook. This aids the turned up eye and hackle stem in making the fly weed resistant. You'll have to try it for yourself to see that the hackle stem weed guard presents no deterrent to hookup. It deflects easily out of the way when pressure is applied to the top but is surprisingly resilient to force applied at the front end.

If all this sounds a little like fly pasting



Figure 4

instead of fly tying that's exactly what it is. And fly pasting has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. There are some places where you just can't tie on. You'll mess the fly up if you try. That's where pasting comes in. But, you've got to be concerned about the strength and hardness of a paste on. Don't be. Remember, fabric paint is used on T-shirts and hats and can be washed time and time again in harsh detergents without coming off. Moreover, the stuff is easy to work with and very forgiving. It's not for everything. But it is another tool to go in your bag. The next time you want to put a little something on your fly and you can't figure out how to tie it on, try pasting it on..... Just another tool.

So what do we call this fly. As far as I'm concerned I'd settle for "Weed Resistant Wooly Bugger (WRWB)." Like Ken Armer says, "It's the greatest fly around." All we've done is add a hackle weed guard for the hook. Don't know whether or not that changes its character but it doesn't seem to effect its appeal to the fish. I've caught fish with them and, if I can just get over having heart attacks I'm going to catch more with them. Remember, when you can't tie, paste. And, you have a lot more liberty in your fishing when you don't have to worry about getting hung up in the weeds. 

JUNE CALENDAR

PROGRAM MEETING-5th-Monday, 7:30 PM, Annual Raffle.

BASS FISHING ON LOWER OTAY-10th-Saturday, 6:30 AM, Check with the "Bassmaster" Ed Velton for this outing at

SURF FLY FISHING-17th-Saturday, 7:00 AM, Our resident expert on fly fishing the surf, C.T. Reinert will lead this outing. Call him at

CUTOFF DATE FOR FINNY FACTS ARTICLES-16th-Friday, Send articles to: Rose and Roger Yamasaki, 5415 Lodi Place, San Diego, CA 92117, You can E-mail at

Thanks!!

BOARD MEETING- Held the last Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the offices of ENARTEC, Inc. Call Pat Case to make sure meeting hasn't been postponed. All are welcome.



Early Season Fishing Turning Out to Be a Winner

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overplay these fish, the rigors of the spawn take a heavy toll on many. Remember, this is our wild trout fisheries future.

Lower Owens River, Drift boat section:

Water levels are increasing weekly and this is making for some tough fishing. Flows are currently at 400 cfs. and are expected to increase further. The weather is also very warm to hot in the Owens Valley, above average for this time of year. We have encountered sporadic good fishing during the stable periods between flow increases, however I am not recommending drifting or wade fishing on the Lower Owens in the near future.

This happens every season folks, just a little bit early this year due to the mild winter.

Crowley Lake:

Business as usual here. I am stocking up on film in anticipation of many Kodak moments this season. A slow start during the first week of the season, this may be attributed to the opening weekend massacre. We had no ice to speak of on the lake this winter and water temps were well above average for this period. Power Dunkers and worm drowners saw great action on the opener and the weather was fantastic all weekend. I had 56 degrees at the surface recently. The chironomid bite has been very good as of late and the fish will still hit olive and black streamer patterns #6-#10. I like a hornberg or spruce fly with a midge trailer.

The Owens river mouth is already getting some weed build-up, however the water is very clear for Crowley.

SIERRA DRIFTERS



TOM LOEB

Tubers beware of the winds this time of year. If it starts to gust from any direction, you better be a kicking!

Upper Owens River:

Excellent fishing here. Nymphing and tugging streamers will work well. There are substantial populations of fish from the

confluence into Crowley, all the way to Big Springs, the Owens origin.

The only downside to this area is the lack of special regulations downstream from the Benton Crossing bridge at the Owens River all the way into Crowley Lake. Organic Bait fishing, barbed hooks and a 5 fish limit with no size restriction apply here. The California Dept. of Fish and Game did not see any reason to reinstate prior special regulations concerning this section, known as THE GAUNTLET. Many of you wrote letters last season expressing concerns over this area. Keep writing those letters folks, this is a unique area and one that needs regulation changes to insure a quality fishery for years to come. I will detail this area further later in the report.

Crowley Lake tributaries, McGee, Convict, Hilton Creeks:

Outstanding fishing. The creeks are running clear and the flow levels moderate. There are a lot of fish present in these areas at the moment. Use a dry and a dropper. I suggest a stimulator with a caddis or midge larva pattern. There is some surface action with small dark caddis around mid-day. The key here is a

low profile approach and an accurate first cast. Make all attempts not to disturb or spook fish and you will get a lot of action.

Do not wear spotted leather fishing attire, or make suggestive grunts while fighting a fattie in these places....The bulls are pretty frisky this time of year!

East Walker River:

The flows are currently at 200cfs. and rising. Get here soon if you want to get an easy shot at some nice browns. Still very fishable and worth the trip if you can get a section to yourself. You will need some split shot on your nymph rig to get to the fish in the deeper holes. An olive or black streamer pattern will get some hard takes here if presented properly. May fly and caddis nymph imitations in sizes 14-18, olive bodied, will work well. A dry and a dropper will work while fishing the riffles and short water areas.

If you are going to wade here, make sure you have a felt soled wading boots, preferably with studs, a wading belt and a staff. The rocks are very slippery, be careful. We do not need a re-run of "A River Runs Through It", Brad Pitt imitation while you cascade down the river.

Hot Creek:

Excellent fishing. Clean water and moderate flows with lot's of eager fish. There has been Mayfly and caddis activity on a regular basis starting late morning. Nymphing with a dry and a dropper will work well, a San Juan worm and a bead head will do the trick also. This place is a great example of how a C and R fishery can work in a heavily fished area. Please do not wade here if at all possible.

The crowds mid-week are not bad, as there are plenty of fish elsewhere. Good time to fish here, I expect the run-off to start soon.

continued next page



Bishop Creek, Lake Sabrina area:

Good fishing. Aggressive planting of D.F.G. and Alpers trout will keep most happy in this area. The upper lakes are frozen and water levels very low at this time. Streamers, nymphing with a San Juan worm as an attractor will get plenty of takes.

Mammoth Lakes, San Joaquin River:

The upper Lakes are still mostly frozen or inaccessible. Mammoth Creek has been planted to the hilt if this interests you. Twin Lakes is fishing well with heavy plantings of Alpers and D.F.G. catchables. The San Joaquin is not easily accessible. Call Captain Kirk and have him beam you in there.

June Lake Loop, Rush Creek:

Good fishing in most areas. I have not fished here in person, but the reports indicate good action on Rush Creek between Grant and Silver Lakes. A #6-#8 spruce fly will get you some nice spawning rainbows in this area.

Bridgeport Reservoir:

Have not fished this as of yet, however, I hear good things. The lake is up and the weeds are down. I have found action this time of year near the airport runway pretty close to the confluence of the East Walker River. Buckeye and Robinson Creek mouths will have fish nearby also. Olive streamer patterns and leeches in brown and cinnamon work well.

A closer look....Upper Owens River, upstream from the bridge at Benton Crossing:

I will from time to time give details of some of the areas we frequent.

The Upper Owens River is a true spring creek that emanates primarily from a groundwater source called Big Springs. Hot Creek merges into its flow about 2/

3's into its journey into Crowley Lake Reservoir. It flows along private property for much of its upper sections until it finally becomes accessible to the public at the upper end of Long Valley. Its path meanders along the Glass Mountains to the east, and it is a slow moving, meadowish, small river, with many oxbows and hairpin bends along the way. There is very little foliage along its entire path, ideal for flyfishers.

The best access to this area is by taking Hwy. 395, near the Mammoth Lakes area, then turning east on Benton Crossing Road. There is a little green church on the east side of the road. Convict Creek runs close by here. If you are coming from the south, be on the look out for the turn-off after you pass up Crowley Lake and the Cal-trans sub station. If you are coming from the north you will pass the Mammoth Lakes airport on your east or left side. Turn here and you will continue until you cross a bridge at the Owens River, it's about 5 miles. Take the first dirt road turn-off, north, or left, past the bridge, and continue along this road until you come to a series of gates. The dirt road, (it is not 4 wheel drive, but I would NOT suggest low ground clearance vehicles), parallels the river for the most part for several miles.

This area upstream from the bridge is under special regulations, only BARBLESS artificial flies and lures may be used. You can possess 2 fish under 16" in length. The last Saturday in April, til October 31st is the season.

There are many turn-outs leading to the river along this dirt road, and each area has its own unique features. I prefer the upper regions at the very end of the road. Here the road ends at a small parking area near an irrigation canal and a fence crosses the river, letting you know that private waters lie upstream.

A barbed wire fence spans both sides of the river, there are very few entry points, but enough to allow good access. This fence was erected in large part, with help

by Trout Unlimited, and Cal Trout, to keep cattle out of the watershed, thus improving habitat.

You will find deep undercut banks, perfect for pulling a streamer along side and large deep pools that need careful approach. You must properly weight nymphs to get the fly down to the big resident and migrant spawning trout that inhabit this area.


The water here is very clean most of the season except for a brief run-off period. Careful and methodical approaches are needed if you wish to fool these fish.

The spring spawn, which runs from April until early June and the fall run, which can start in September and run through the closing at the end of October, are the best times to fish this area. There are resident fish here year round and good dry fly action can be found during the mid-summer months, but you will encounter many more opportunities during the spawning periods. These fish migrate upstream from Crowley Lake during these periods.

A variety of patterns work well here. Hare's ear and caddis imitations work well under a San Juan Worm and strike indicator. Roe patterns during spawning periods will produce also. One of my favorite methods of fishing this area is pulling a streamer under the cut banks. Keep your rod tip under water along the deep side of the river and hang on! 2X and 3X tippet will get bit when tugging the streamers.

This is a beautiful small river, in a panoramic valley that can be highly productive. It is a must do if you are in the Eastern Sierra. Please check out the photos of this area on our website at, <http://sierradrifters.com>

Best fishes to all,

Be the fly...Tom Loe, <http://sierradrifters.com>
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Bring Back the Natives? Or Not?

by Ralph Cutter

Before modern man came on the scene, Lahontan cutthroat trout the size of small children fanned in the waters of Pyramid Lake and ran up the Truckee River to spawn. The size and numbers of these fish inspired General Fremont to call them salmon trout. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of these awesome fish were commercially harvested and their delicate flesh was packed in ice and shipped to gourmands as far away as San Francisco and Chicago. The cutthroat thrived in virtually every lake, creek and stream in the Truckee, Carson and Walker River drainages. Today only a few isolated populations of these fish survive. Dams, logging, commercial harvest and the introduction of exotic species such as rainbow and brown trout conspired to eradicate the Lahontan Cutthroat from its native waters. The Lahontan cutthroat is listed as a threatened species and today the US Fish and Wildlife Service is swiftly moving forward with plans to reintroduce the Lahontan Cutthroat back into the Truckee and Walker Rivers. This will not be an easy thing to do, in fact most biologists think it is an impossible task.

Probably the biggest obstacle to reestablishing the native fish are the non-native fish who now call these waters home. Brown trout are highly competitive fish that feed upon and easily displace the meek cutthroat from optimal holding areas.

More insidious than the brown trout are the rainbows, which not only displace the cutthroat, but readily interbreed with them. The rainbow and cutthroat are

genetic kissing cousins and more often than not hybridization occurs when aggressive male 'bows are in the vicinity of spawning cutthroats. The propensity of



rainbow and brown trout to oust cutthroats from their habitat is so strong that never, in the history of fisheries management, has a population of cutthroat been able to be successfully introduced atop an existing population of rainbows and browns. Millions of dollars and millions of cutthroat trout have been wasted trying to give them even footing with exotic species. Hundreds of thousands, possibly millions of cutts have been unsuccessfully planted in the Truckee River drainage itself.

The Nevada director of the USF&W Bob Williams has acknowledged that it will be a "challenge" reestablishing the native fish. The Agency has admitted the exotic rainbows and browns "probably" can't co-exist with the native cutthroat and are currently studying the "various management tools that may be employed to control them."

I am a life-long supporter of native fish management but this is a plan based on ideals rather than logic. If I thought there was the slightest chance of success I'd support it; however, it simply doesn't stand to reason. It will be all but impossible to remove the rainbow and brown trout from Lakes Tahoe, Donner, Indepen-

dence, Stampede, Boca, Prosser, and Martis. Even if these lakes could be sterilized, what about the hundred of miles of creeks, rivers and streams in the

Truckee River watershed? Ten million dollars later California Fish and Game can't even control the pike in Lake Davis ... an isolated body of water with a few small tributaries.

For the experiment to succeed, virtually every rainbow trout will have to be removed from the system. If even a few rainbows survive, they will interbreed with the cutthroat creating a population of "cutbows"; non-native hybrid mutts, which in my opinion would be no better than the rainbows they would replace.

I would like to see cutthroat introduced one tributary at a time, piece-by-piece; or perhaps, use exclusionary traps on Prosser Creek below Prosser Reservoir and create a cutthroat-only spawning habitat. In my opinion, it is folly to attempt reintroduction of LCT into the main-stem Truckee.

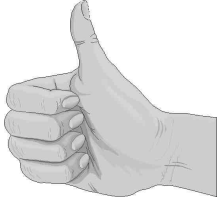
My opinion is simply my opinion. I personally don't believe destroying the wild trout fishery on the Truckee and the trophy trout fishery on the Walker is worth the statistically insignificant chance that a viable cutthroat fishery might be established.

From WorldWaters.com website...

Visit Ralph Cutter's website at <http://www.flyline.com/> Ralph is the author of Sierra Trout Guide and runs the California School of Flyfishing with his wife Lisa. 1-800-58-TROUT. 🐟



Let's Try This Again



Last February 26, five members of SDF—Gary Hilbers, Lee McElravy, Emil Smith, John Beckstand, and Tom Smith—put on a fly tying demonstration at the Lake Skinner Fifth Annual Trout Fishing Derby for Kids. How was the experience?...The accompanying “thank you” letter from Mark Lynn of the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District says it all. *Patrick Case*

Dear Fellow Fly Fishers

There are many vices for our children in their early years to choose from. On February 26, 2000 at the Fifth annual Lake Skinner “Trout Derby For Kids” that is put on by Riverside County Parks, several children found a good vice. The derby was the big picture, with children standing on the banks of a cove at Lake Skinner fishing. Some there for the first time with a rod and reel in hand. There are many Volunteers who helped in putting it all together. Without these volunteers it could not have happen. Under the guiding hands of Mark Lynn this one too is safe in the creel.

There was also a small story in this big one, a call for help by Art Santore to other fly fisher who tied fishing flies. Surgery was going to make it difficult for Art to tie flies at the Fly Tying Demonstration. With hardly a week before the Trout Derby the call for help was answered by five tiers.

The San Diego Fly Fishers Club brought their Vises in hand to the Derby at Lake Skinner. Gary Hibers, Lee McElravy, Emil Smith and John Beckstand gave what they thought was their time to demonstrate the art of tying flies. The big picture here was of their vice called tying flies for use in fishing. Children in ages of five to fifteen stepped up to the table and watched wide-eyed as feathers were bound with thread to a hook held in a vise. Theses fellow tiers had children lip hooked in no time by placing the bobbin in the Childs hand. Instructing theses children of methods and ways to make a fly of their own hand.

After the experience at the vise they stood looking at their fly on their palm as if it would take flight. Running off to tell their friends about what they had made with feathers and thread. Soon others would step up to the vise and place their hand on a vice. A vice that fellow fly fishers know will take them to a far better place. Oh I know they might say it was no big thing they did that day to them selves.

Rewards come in many forms, some day while fishing on the bend of a river an unfamiliar face at first will approach. Looking deep into your eyes for a moment and say “THANK YOU for that Saturday at Lake Skinner at that Trout Derby. I too now have a vise. From the moment I saw the magic of your vice, I have been gut hooked on it”. Just one of the many children who walked up to our tables on that day and acknowledge the rewards known only to fly fishers.

“ A Vise is my Vice— Not Drugs- Get Hooked On Fly Fishing”

PS: The biggest one we hooked that day was the county fire dept person, look for him soon in your club.

Art Santore 

Thanks again to the Fly Fishers of souls
Mark Lynn



A series of articles on who we are, what we do, and how we operate.

How We Operate: Board Meetings

All of the Big Decisions Are Made at These Meetings

I've always known about the Club Board meetings. All of the big decisions are made at these meetings but I never have attended one. So after many years with the Club I decided to find out what it's all about. Here's what goes on.

The meetings are presently held at the offices of SDFP Club President Patrick Case's company ENARTEC. The 6:30 pm meeting started off with the Treasurer's report from Warren Lew who reviewed the Club budget and expenditures. No major surprises here but it is interesting to find out where the money is going.

Next up was Speakers Chairman Lane Pearson. Lane is happy to report that the rest of the year is booked with speakers including our annual Members Presentations in December. Speakers for the rest of the year were reviewed. Lane is booking speakers into April 2001.



Board meeting attendees include (clockwise from upper left): Sherry Brainerd, Helen Grundler, Lee McElravy, Warren Lew, Lane Pearson, and SDFP Club President Patrick Case.

However, manufacturers are cutting back on the value of donations to the Club so it is getting harder and harder to get as many prizes as the Club would like. It becomes important for each Club member to consider a donation. Decisions were made as to certain prizes that would be more beneficial being raffled off at the monthly meeting rather than the annual raffle.

Finally the Club history book put together by Ed Velton was reviewed. The book will be available soon to the membership.

All of the agenda items were covered in a matter of an hour. A perfect example of democracy in action. A lot of interesting information passes through the Board Meetings: budget info, speakers list, raffle prize list, and a few things I am sworn to secrecy (*and the cookies and coffee aren't bad either, thanks to previous complaints about the lack of by Jim Tenuto, I'm told*). If you are interested in what goes on in the inner workings of the SDFP check out a Board Meeting. Its open to all. 🍷



After a quick review of the steelhead rainbow trout in San Mateo Creek it was on to the Annual Raffle. A review of the extensive prize list was given, and I must say it is impressive.



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We Still Need an Ad Man or Ad Woman

The San Diego Fly Fishers is looking for a member to step up and take the chair of the Advertising Committee Chairperson. This person would be responsible for generating revenue for the Club through advertising in the *FINNY FACTS*. It's actually a really easy job as the advertising rates were previously determined and approved by the Board a number of years ago. They might need to be adjusted, but that should be easy to do.

If you are interested in doing your part to help the Club in an easy way, contact our Club President Pat Case.

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1992-Bob Camp
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud
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1995-Bob Wisner
1996-Gary Hilbers
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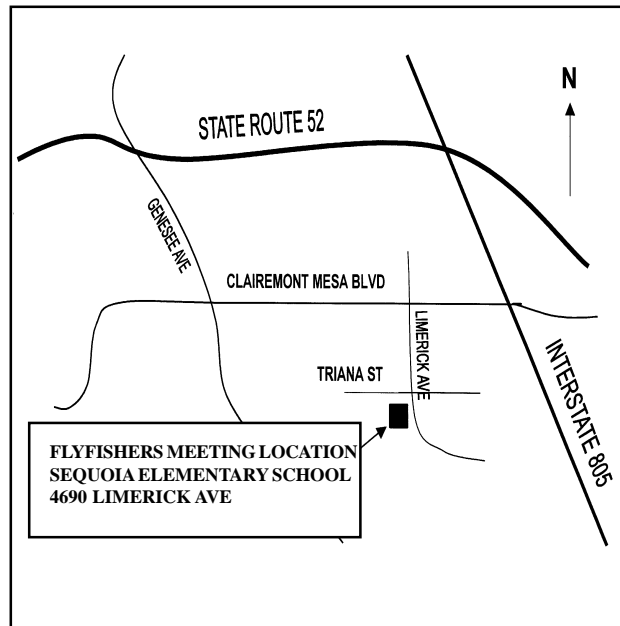
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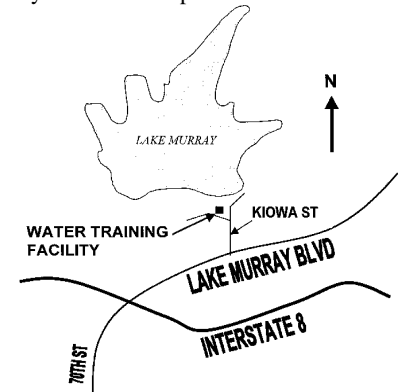
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