

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

JANUARY 2009

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 14, No. 1

January Meeting

Annual Stroud Banquet January 5th

Yes it's that time of year again when we honor those who have contributed to the San Diego Fly Fishers Club as well as the flyfishing community in general

Along with the many beautiful fly plates that will be awarded there is the Gordon Foster Memorial Award and the coveted Stroud Award.

Hope to see all of you at this annual gala event at the Admiral Baker Golf Course Clubhouse on January 5th.

Happy New Year 2009!

Exciting Day with the Dogs

A fish story by Lucky Ketcham, SDFP, October 21, 2008

Louie Zimm had the sea lions literally eating out of his hands yesterday on a short fishing trip to the Point Loma kelp beds. It is always fun when Louie invites me to go out fishing in the coastal waters of San Diego. You never know what you are going to see and what memories you will bring back. This trip, the most exciting moment came when a 600 pound bump head male came out of the water and took a 4 pound bonito out of Louie's hand just as we were trying to take the hook out. It just grabbed it by the tail and dropped back into the water. The gill plate of the fish and the heavy mono cut into Louie's fingers and he was lucky enough to grab the rod before it too followed the big brown sea lion. I was watching but it took me a few minutes to realize what had just happened. We have often had sea lions steal our fish, but rarely are they brave enough to take one out of your hand. If the heavy butt end of the leader had been wrapped around a finger or thumb, it would have cut it off. The dog swam off with the bonito as Louie fed out the screaming line. It surfaced about two hundred feet out and chomped on the bonito until the head was free. Five of six gulls dove down to



Lucky with a nice bonito.

collect any scraps tossed in the water. Louie then reeled in a half pound head and looked at the cuts on his hands. I was really concerned when he pulled back the sleeve on his jacket and I saw a three inch streak of dried blood. We were relieved when he washed it off and found it was just some blood from a bonito he caught earlier in the morning.

The lesson learned is that you have

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JANUARY 2009

I wish all of you season's greetings and a very Happy 2009! Let's hope it's filled with fish attacking your flies. I can't believe I'm already writing my last letter to you as President. I'm looking forward to our Annual Banquet on January 5, where we'll have an opportunity to socialize and celebrate the wonderful year we've had at SDFF. I hope to see many of you there.

As I look back over the year, 2008 has been marked by worldwide financial upheaval and significant political change, but in contrast, SDFF remains strong. Last month was another fine example, with the informative and entertaining talk given by Joe Contaldi on fishing the Mammoth Lakes area. He gave us a lot of tips on techniques and fly patterns to use there.

The great year we've had is not because of me, but due to the membership, volunteers, supporters and Board that we have. I give special thanks to the 2008 Board of Directors starting with officers and committee chairs, **Paul Woolery, Lee McElravy, Gary Strawn, Wayne**

Allen, Lucky Ketchum, Larry Sorensen and Jim Reeg and directors at large, **Lee Anderson, Don Davis, Maria Goldman, Art Reifman, Bob Stafford, Shelley Wagner and Louie Zimm**. Your board has provided strong guidance and direction and has been involved in leading many of our club activities.



JONATHAN HEE

If I tried to list everything they do, it would take up pages and pages. Just ask Lucky, he's put together a list of all of our club activities and its 6 pages long. Each and every one of your board members has played a key role this year either as a leader or volunteer in many of these programs!

As in any organization, however, its member volunteers who provide the gas to make us go. A number of members have stepped up and been terrific speakers for us this year including **Jim Behrend, Bob Pharoah and Lucky Ketchum**. Special thanks goes to new member, **Joel Stewart**, who gave us a fascinating account of fly fishing in Baghdad! Over the last year, I've been able to recognize some of the many volunteers this club has, but certainly not all of them. There are

too many of you to list in this letter now, and I'm sure I would miss someone, so please allow me to provide my sincerest thanks to all of you as a group. You are what make this club so special! Once again, we've also benefited from the generosity of the Stroud's and our other local fly shops. Thank you.

In addition to our many strong ongoing programs, I'm pleased that we have been able to start some new programs this year and reinvigorate some others. These include the mentorship program, fly fishing clinics, women's group, conservation, and participation in the Southwest Council of FFF. Our annual raffle also raised a significant amount of funds that we've been able to distribute to worthy conservation and education causes.

This year has been a very rewarding experience for me and I thank you for the opportunity you gave me to serve as your president. Next year this club will be under the leadership of **Paul Woolery**. I've leaned on him a lot this year and I know he'll be a terrific president! I'm looking forward to great 2009 with SDFF and maybe I'll get to wet a line a little more too.

Tight Lines!



San Diego Fly Fishers
Annual "STROUD" Banquet
Monday January 5th 2009
6:30 to 9:00 PM
Admiral Baker Clubhouse
U.S. Navy Recreation Center

**Come celebrate another successful year for the
San Diego Fly Fishers.**

**The price is only \$25 per person for a great buffet.
Spouses and guests are welcome!**

Day with the Dogs

Continued from page 1

to watch out for those sea lions and bring the fish into the boat when they are around. The dogs are pretty smart and will hang in the shadow of the boat until your bonito or large mackerel is tired and a better target. I have seen them take fish that are just hanging from a fishing line above the water very often, but never seen one take a fish out of your arms. Louie said he had one dive over his kayak trying to get a barracuda. The big heavy bullies can be dangerous. Be careful in small boats and kayaks. Luckily they don't like the sharp spines on bass or they would be chasing us around in the bay.

Yesterday morning we launched in the dark at 6:30 AM in pursuit of early morning bonito crashing on Crease Flies. It did not take us very

long to find some willing fish at a temperature break just outside the mouth of the harbor and then again outside the kelp line near Green Tanks. The water was clear and blue and the winds light most of the morning. We were trying to see if we could keep the bonito around the boat today by bribing them with live anchovies. It was an expensive experiment at \$35 for a scoop and a half of bait, but it worked. The presence of even two or three chummed anchovies kept the fast swimming bonito around for a few more minutes and they were less likely to just continue sounding and breezing along. In the past we usually have had to play run and gun, and watch the birds to tell us where the schools of bonito or mackerel had popped to the surface.

It might be worth the cost of the bait just to watch large bonito jumping

out of the water crashing on the baits. You could see the chummed anchovies get excited as the fish approached and they would wiggle out of the water just as they were attacked by one or two bonito. You could look down into the clear water and see the whole school milling around and zipping under the boat. I know it was definitely more fun to watch them crashing on my floating Crease Fly. The fish seemed to miss it often and it would take three or four attempts for one of the silver bullets to actually get hooked on the fly. The fish would attack from the side and look like they were traveling 50 mph when they came completely out of the water. At the same time that you are setting the hook and feeding out line you have to remember to chum out some more bait or you would lose the school. It can be very exciting. We had at

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Bullheads Invade San Luis Rey River

In October, one of our newer members, **Scott Shenk** was hiking and fishing in North County near Palomar Mountain, and identified several invasive bullheads in the deep pools of the upper West Fork of the San Luis Rey River. Allen Greenwood of SDFF and San Diego Trout brought it to the attention of local California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Chris McKibbin, Fisheries Biologist with DFG's Heritage and Wild Trout Program asked for volunteers to help survey the ponds and remove the bullhead if possible.



Hiking above the pools.

On November 25, five volunteers from SDFF (**Paul Woolery, Wayne Allen, Scott Shenk, Rich Louv and I**)

joined several DFG biologists on a strenuous hike to the survey site. It started as a nice 3+ mile downhill hike to the river. We were each carrying our own day packs with neoprene waders, plus the DFG nets, buckets, electroshocking equipment and spare batteries required for the survey. After a short break we worked our way along the steep bank of the River for about ½ mile. It was steep and rugged but easy compared to the last ¼ mile, where we climbed down to the pools. Chris tied a rope to a tree and we used it as a safety line as we lowered ourselves and all of the gear down the "cliff". We all survived and as it turned out, the worst part was thinking about the climb back up.

The pools were absolutely spectacular. Sitting below a waterfall, the first pool was nearly 10 feet deep, cold and crystal clear. That posed a problem. The electrofishing equipment is only useful in waist deep water. One of the DFG biologists did an initial snorkeling survey wearing a heavy wet suit. Then we donned our waders, nets and buckets to electroshock as much of the pool as we safely could. We removed four California brown bullheads



GARY STRAWN



Electro-fishing the upper pool.

(*Ameiurus nebulosus* from). We saw lots of mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) and tadpoles, but no trout in the upper pool. Four nice rainbows were seen in the lower pool so several folks broke out their fly rods. One of the DFG guys hooked nice rainbow but lost it before we could measure it.

By 2:30 PM we started the climb back to the trailhead. The last of us got back to the cars a little after 5:00, just as it was getting dark. Although we were not successful in removing all of the bullhead, we did confirm their presence. DFG is looking into catfish

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FLY OF THE MONTH

Cutter's E/C (Emerger/Cripple) Caddis

Hook: Orvis 4864, Big Eye Hook, down eye, size 14 to 20
Thread: Olive 8/0
Shuck: Fine, crinkly Z-Lon, ginger or amber
Abdomen: Dark olive or brown dry fly or caddis dubbing
Thorax: Light olive, bright green or tan dry fly or caddis dubbing.
Wing: Elk or deer body hair
Hackle: Grizzly or dun saddle hackle.



I am always looking for new caddis patterns. This two tone emerger pattern by Ralph Cutter looks like a winner. Ralph observes his fly patterns underwater and notes that the green thorax emerging from the brown abdomen and trailing shuck is a trigger for our eastern Sierra trout. He believes it works better than the all brown or all green body. You can use regular TMC 100 dry fly hooks, but Ralph is using this Orvis big eye, wide gap hook for better hooking ability. Try it. - Lucky Ketchum

De-barb and mount the hook in your vise. Attach the thread at the 7/8 position to mark the future wing location. Wrap a thread base to the bend and back up to mid shank. Split a strand of amber Z-Lon yarn into thirds and attach a small bunch as a trailing shuck. (Caddis flies do not have tails.) Trim the butts at mid shank and bring the thread back to the bend in preparation for the dubbing. Tease out a fine noodle of superfine dark brown dry fly dubbing and attach to waxed thread. Keep the dubbing sparse and just make a "bumpy thread." Twist the dubbing tight and wrap the dark abdomen up to mid shank. Change colors and wrap the thorax with a light green up to the 7/8 wing position. Advanced tiers try adding both colors to the thread and wrap it all at once.

Select and size a grizzly saddle hackle with barbs to be 1.5 to 2 hook gaps. Remember parachute flies can have one size larger hackle. Trim the barbs off 1/4 inch of the butt end and attach the

quill, dull side down, to the bare hook in front of the dubbing. Fold the quill back and make a few wraps to lock in the hackle. Cover the thread and quill with another small amount of green dubbing in front of the hackle stem up to the eye and then back to the wing position. (Tip - always tie your hackle quills down on the bare hook or hard thread base, and not on top of dubbing or soft material, and use some type of thread lock to solve the problem of the hackle pulling loose.) Attach your hackle pliers to the tip and let it hang while you add the wing.

This "emerger" has a shorter and sparser elk hair wing than the normal Elk Hair Caddis. Select a small bundle of well marked deer hair about half the amount used for an EHC. Clean and stack it. Hold the bundle over the body and size it to have the tips go just to the end of the abdomen or shorter. Hold on to the butt ends and make three or four moderately tight turns of thread at the normal parachute position, 7/8 hook shank. Pull up on the front bundle and make two wraps of thread clock wise just over the body and under the wing making it a parachute -like post. Let the thread hang to the far side. Now take the grizzly hackle and wrap three wraps of hackle, clockwise around and under the wing. Each wrap should be below the last, ending close to the body. Pull down on the hackle tip and wrap two tight turns of thread around and under the hackle. Keep the thread as close to the body as you can. Bring the thread to the hook eye, and half hitch. I like to use a half hitch tool to make a three wrap whip finish. It

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Fly of the Month

continued from previous page

slides under the parachute hackle easier than trying to pull the fibers back and use a whip finisher. (Tip: Three inside wraps on a half hitch tool produces the same results as three wraps on the whip fisher, and the tube tip will push back straggler fibers.)

Tie this fly without the trailing shuck and with a dark olive or dark grey body and you will have Eric Otzinger's Hot Creek Caddis. Eric uses only one color and ties the fly down to size 24. Use fine coast deer hair for the smaller patterns.



Louie with a calico bass.

From the Conservation Chair

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traps or other means, but due to the shape and size of the waterfall and lower pools, they believe complete removal of undesired exotics is not likely. If they do try the traps, they may need volunteers to help maintain them. So if anyone is interested in a steep hike (climb) to an unbelievably beautiful trout stream, right here in our North County mountains, contact me and I will add you to our SDFC conservation emails.



SDFC Conservation Crew.

Day with the Dogs

Continued from page 1

least four double hook ups and were often landing two fish at the same time. Sometimes we were also racing the dogs.

Bonito are very fast and strong. Four to five pound bonitos are a very exciting fish to catch on a fly line. In just a few seconds you are into your backing and counting the yards spinning off. Then you remember to set your drag a little tighter. You have to be careful not have your fingers too close to the reel handles. The direct drive reel is like the old fashioned knuckle busters of conventional fishing. I kept loosening

my drag to make stripping the line easier and then I had to remember to reset the drag if I really thought I was going to get bit. If the fish really began swimming off and it felt like there was a 400 pound fish on the line, a dog had grabbed the fish. We each lost 3 to 5 fish to the sea lions.

Louie is pretty smart about fishing with the sea lions. He will let a nearby party boat catch their attention and minimize the chumming of anchovies to one or two at a time. The party boats will draw the dogs. If we have one or two following us, he will slowly drive by another boat that has a fish hooked up. The sea

lions will swim off the new boat and forget about us for a while. In general when the dogs arrive and start stealing our fish, he takes off to a new spot. If you stay and just let them eat some of your fish, it just encourages that behavior and further trains them to steal fish.

All in all it was another good day on the water. We caught mackerel, and two size classes of bonito. Louie was surprised to catch a nice two or three pound calico bass that took his fly just after he lost a nice bonito. We guess the bass was trying to steal the bait from the little tuna. Louie was glad to see the smaller two pound bonito in the area and hopes they will move into the bays for the winter. The larger 4 pound pelagic bonito are more likely to keep moving along the coast. The smaller fish do not mind living in the tighter confinements of the bay. Louie and I always discuss things like the swim speed to body length ratio of the fish, preferences for temperature breaks, plankton movement, food in the surface film, fish location and willingness to bite on various changes in the current direction, exotic sea bird, presences of dolphin species ... He is a great person to fish with! If you like or can tolerate the dogs – get out and go.





CALIFORNIA TROUT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Lass, office (530) 587-7110,
cell (530) 388-8261, dlass@tu.org

Wild and native trout of the Tahoe National Forest need your help!

Unmanaged Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use continues to threaten our most beloved fisheries

Truckee, CA (November 18th, 2008) – The incredible fishing resources of the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) are in dire need of protection from unmanaged OHV use. The Tahoe National Forest is asking for public comment and input on Route Designation, a plan with serious implications on wild and native trout species. This is a critical time for sportsmen to step up in support of their favorite trout waters and tell the Forest Service to stop unmanaged motorized abuse.

Route Designation is a process to designate off-highway vehicle routes and determine what routes will remain open and which routes will become closed, or illegal, for future use. For the Tahoe National Forest, this process began in 2004 as part of a Region-wide effort. This process is currently in the Draft Environmental Impact (DEIS) stage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This is the last chance for the public to comment on the plan before the final decision is made in early 2009.

Riparian areas and aquatic dependent species are particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts from OHV use. Unmanaged recreation, including impacts from OHV's, is one of "Four Key Threats Facing the Nation's Forests and Grasslands." (USDA Forest Service, June 2004). Sportsmen could very well be the voice that decides the future for our public lands and help stop inappropriate OHV use that continues to impact our most important fisheries.

The last, best places we have to hunt and fish in the TNF are at risk under Route Designation, and therefore need your help. Particularly, the wild trout waters of the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers, and Prosser Creek are most affected by inappropriate motorized use. Important roadless headwater areas such as Castle Peak and the West Yuba are also seriously threatened from encroaching OHV use. Three of the most popular reservoirs, Boca, Stampede and Prosser have turned into OHV playgrounds, and water quality and invertebrate life is being severely impacted.

"Sportsmen need to make sure their voice is well represented during the final step of this process" said David Lass, Field Coordinator and Youth Education Director for California TU. "The Tahoe National Forest has some

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of the best opportunities for wild trout fishing in the state. Unmanaged and inappropriate OHV use has been identified as one of the largest threats to coldwater fisheries. Route Designation is an unprecedented chance for anglers to do something really special for local trout, with the benefits lasting for decades.”

Outside of Alaska, California contains the most acreage of U.S. Forest Service land and boasts more native trout species than any other state. For sportsmen, this is a special state to call home.

“We need as many anglers and hunters to send their comments to Supervisor Quinn and urge him to protect the last, best places we have to hunt and fish,” said Lass. “This is a critical time to ensure the angling experiences within the forest are protected. If we fail, increased OHV use poses a serious threat to the outdoor sports we love.”

What you can do:

- Send your personal comments to the Tahoe National Forest (address below). Every comment counts!
- Urge Forest Supervisor Tom Quinn to protect the last, best places we have to hunt and fish
- Contact Trout Unlimited to find out more about Route Designation and impacts on local trout fisheries
- Attend a local Trout Unlimited Chapter meeting and get involved.

Comments about the DEIS should be sent to: tnf_rte_desig@fs.fed.us

Trout Unlimited is the nation’s largest and oldest coldwater conservation organization actively working to conserve, protect and restore North America’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

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.



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 2005-Allen Greenwood
 2006- Hugh Marx
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Cutoff date for **February FINNY FACTS**
 articles---Friday January 16th.

Send articles to:
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 5415 Lodi Place
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 858-274-2712.

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

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For unselfish and outstanding service
 to the flyfishing community

- | | |
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| 1991-Ned Sewell | 2000-Tom Smith |
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| 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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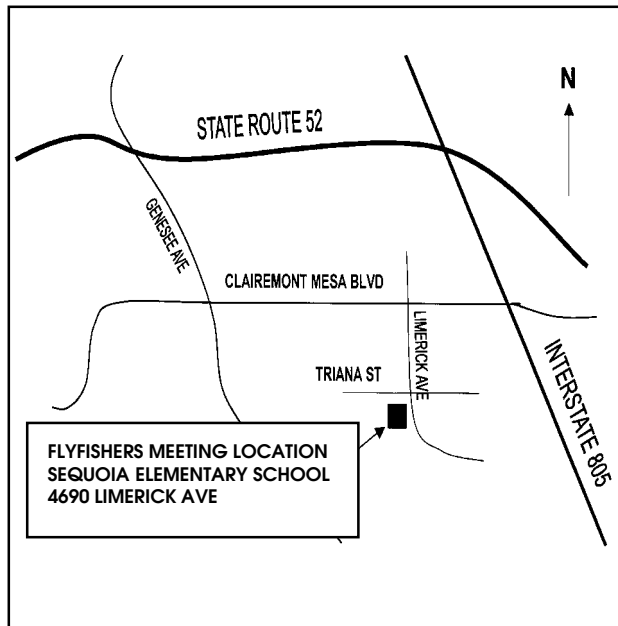
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is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there
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Blvd. exit just like you were going to
the lake. Instead of turning into
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come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first
corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go
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tion center will be on your right. It
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Stroud Tackle
1457 Morena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92110
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