

December 2022

San Diego Fly FishersCleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 45 No. 12

Next Club Meeting

Monday, December 12

SDFF Club Banquet and Stroud Award, 5:30 -8:30 pm



Great meal featuring prime rib and many quality door prizes!

Join us for the party! Club members and family \$35 per person. All the information and payment link is on the SDFF web site.

Renew your membership to the San Diego Fly Fishers! Click: <u>Membership</u>

Access the Club Calendar <u>SDFF Calendar</u>
Follow all the action on the Club's <u>Facebook page</u>
Club Meeting <u>Zoom Link</u>

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President's Message



Jim Castelluzzo
December, 2022
president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

This has been an extraordinary year of renewal and rediscovery. We have moved on from the dark shadows of the pandemic lockdowns and have resumed normal operations. Thanks to the dedicated work of your Board of Directors along with committee chairpersons and active members, we have put on some great programs, well attended outings, important conservation work and continued community outreach and youth activities — (continued page 6)













The President's Message continues on the "Feature Article" page.

Editor's note: A special thanks to Jim for going beyond the usual one-year tenure as president and taking the helm of the ship through a stormy period. SDFF is a body of volunteers and enthusiasts that is only as strong as its membership, so congratulations to all!

Speaker Program

DECEMBER 12th SDFF Banquet And Stroud Award SWYC, 5:30 — 8:30 pm Registration <u>Link</u>

Please use the *pay now* button to register for you and your family members. All the information is on the web site. Get your payments in early. This will be a great meal with many quality door prizes.

Dessert Table will be pot-luck style, so bring you're favorite holiday treat!



Have a suggestion for a guest speaker? Contact: Tim Huckaby Speaker Programs

Happenings

DECEMBER 12 Banquet And Stroud Award, 5:30 -8:30 pm Registration <u>Link</u>

Please use the 'pay now' button to register for you and your family members. All the information is on the web site. Get your payments in early. This will be a great meal with many quality door prizes.



Raffle Time!

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has instituted (finally!) the year-from-purchase policy with fishing licenses. "Valid January 1, through December 31, 2023, if purchased between November 15, 2022 and December 31, 2022, or for 365 days if purchased after January 1, 2023." More info https://examp

Our **women's program** is in need of gently used fly tying vices and tools. If you have any gear you no longer use, please contact Brooke Sargent: <u>Women's Programs</u>

Rod Building Stay tuned for when classes will resume

Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student. Dates will be announced in the *Finny Facts*. In the interim, if you are beginning your own project and would like some advice or recommendations, please free to contact <u>Jack Duncan</u>

Please send news, updates, reports, notes, tips, etc., to be shared on this page. Editor: editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Happenings



Lucky gives students at the casting class a few pointers on flies. He's joined by Barry, Mel, Sherri, Bob and Frank.



Jennifer and Kim visit Mel on a Wednesday outing. Notice that Kim is at the throttle so that Jennifer doesn't gun engine and dump her buddy in the drink! (Reference to a little incident in La Ventana.)

Feature Article

(continued from page 2)

We have retained new web site support, **Lissette Whitehead**, who has assisted us in important upgrades to our web site including a donate link to allow donors of all categories to make convenient donations to our club. We also have set up a pay pal link to sell tickets to special events such as your annual Holiday Party and Stroud Banquet, along with very special fishing outings such as our private day on Lake Barrett this past summer.

We have had several successful garage sales which earned funds to support our club activities, including our annual banquet. Unfortunately, we have not had any one step forward to run our annual raffle. This is a labor intensive event that is a year long process. Moving forward, I suggest we continue with monthly garage sales as great hospitality events at our monthly meetings, while earning us income until our next raffle.

Thanks to the effort of our Conservation Program Leader, **Gary Strawn**, and a host of volunteers, the club received the San Diego River Park Foundations & Founders Award for 2022. As I was volunteering at that event this, I accepted the award for Gary as he was out of town. This is a club award and I suggested we display it at future meetings. We have a new category of recognition suggested by **Kai Schumann**. That is the New Member of the Year award. I think it is an excellent idea. Kai will present this to a our recipient this year at our Stroud Banquet. We have also had some successful Women's Program activities this past year organized by **Brooke Sargent**. This is a great way to involve more women in the club activities.

At a River Park Foundation event this spring, I was approached by two eagle scouts indicating an interest in pursuing their Fly Fishing Merit Badges. The club has a history of supporting the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program led by **Lucky Ketchum**, and other club members. I invited the two scouts to our Sunday casting instruction to meet the guys and was pleased to find **Mel Ochs** and **Frank Beaty** run with it. The Scouts are well on their way to achieving their merit badges and we have restarted this great outreach program for young men and women, both for the scouts and general public.

This year has been full of exciting destination trips to the Eastern Sierra, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Baja and Squaw Lake. Kai Schumann and **John Ashley** shared their knowledge of the great Baja Sur destinations of Estero Coyote and Palapas Ventana, along with Squaw Lake. These are outstanding fly fishing destinations and have become a regular trip for our members. **Tim Huckaby** continues to amaze with his exceptional outings to the Forks of the Kern , along with trips to Mike Hiligus's spectacular lodge on the Clark Fork and Stillwater Rivers in Montana (continued next page)...

Feature Article, cont.

I have made several expeditions of discovery with **Tom Rundlett** to revisit Utah's Green River, the Madison, The Galatin, Hamms Fork and the great Salmon River over that past few years. There is nothing better than discovering new fly fishing destinations in our spectacular part of the country.

The future looks bright! Fish on my friends!

Jim Castelluzzo
Outgoing President





Did I ever tell you about that 60lb rooster I broke off at the Island?

SDFF 2023 Board of Directors

Tim Huckaby President
Warren Lew Vice President
Mike Gilroy Vice President
Andrea Rae Treasurer
Mel Ochs Secretary
Alan Thompson Membership

Mark Hedderson Editor/ Media Coordinator

Tim Huckaby
Kai Schumann
Gary Strawn
John Wylie
Vacant
Jim Castelluzzo
Speaker Programs
Monthly Outings
Conservation
Casting Instruction
Women's Programs
Fundraising/At Large

Bruce Harris At Large
Stan Perry At Large
Captain Joel Stewart At Large

Committee Chairpersons

Lee McElravy Project Healing Waters
Jack Duncan Rod Building
Lucky Ketchum Fly Tying Congress

Web Master

Web Site Manager- David Collins

Planned Trips 2022

Last Outing of the Year 7:00 a.m December 10th Otay Lake



For more information contact Kai Schumann

Look for Next Year's Schedule in the January Finny Facts!

For more information contact <u>Kai Schumann</u> or look for details in *The Indicator*.

Questions? Contact us at <u>outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com</u>

Fly of the Month

"Wonder Wings Made Easy" Quick'n Easy Parachute



Click **HERE** for tying instruction video

On a quick look at a looped Wonder Wing, you might think, "There is no way that "flimsy" hackle-fiber wing will support a parachute application." Believe us, it will after you learn to use the process we'll share in this chapter.

The Quick 'n Easy is a fly design Al developed in the early 90s after first learning about Wonder Wings. The parachute addition (above) came years later. It won't take you long to see why the fly got the name it has. It is a get-it-tied and on-the-water pattern for sure!

Materials

Hook: Size 20 to 10, TMC 100, Mustad 94840 or similar

Thread: Tan, 70 denier (6/0) in size

Tail: Waste from the wings, ginger or color of choice **Wings:** Large ginger feathers, looped Wonder Wings

Body: Tan muskrat dubbing **Hackle:** Ginger, parachute style

Head: Thread

Thanks to the FFI Fly Tying Group for this Fly of the Month!

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2022

Sunday fly casting instruction at Lake Murray with <u>Alan Thompson</u> at 9:00 am.

In the meantime, if someone has a question or a trip planned and needs some assistance please email me at the email address below to discuss. I am often able to provide private or semi-private instruction.

Casting Skills Challenge Program: The FFI has reintroduced a program they call the Casting Skills Challenge. It is designed for the experienced beginner caster as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun way to study, practice and challenge oneself in a progressive fashion. We will be offering this program to SDFF membership in 2022. More information on the program can be found on the FFI website.

Several of our club members have been working on completing the FFI Fly Casting Challenge Program.

Intermediate Casting Clinic: Activity continues with clinics at Mission Bay on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

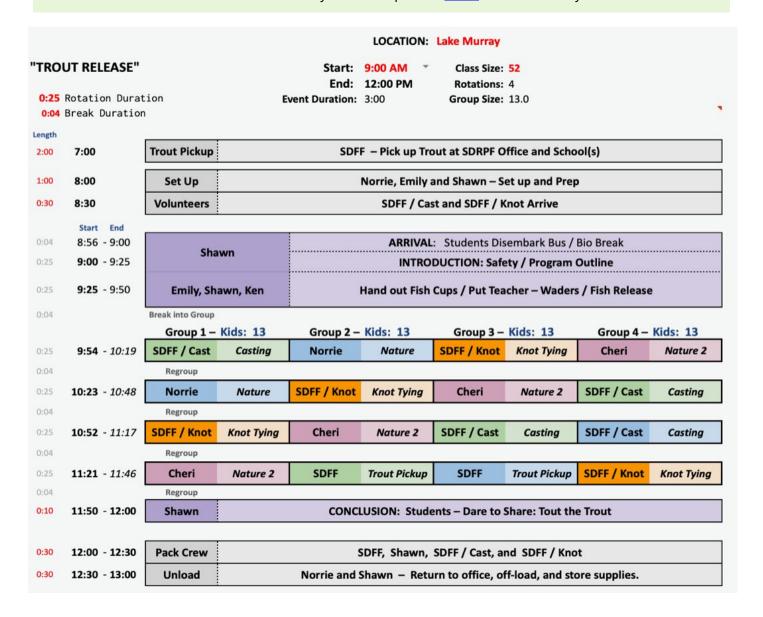


For questions please contact: John Wylie

Conservation & Education

The release date for our Fall Trout in the Classroom participants will be on Dec 13 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Lake Murray. We will need 3 or 4 volunteers to help with transferring the trout and handing them to the students. We also need volunteers to help with casting instruction and at least two fly tyers. There will be about 54 students and they will be rotated through the 4 stations as we have done in the past. This is always a fun and rewarding event. You do not need to be there for the whole time. We should have enough folks that we can work in shifts. We will need at least a few early risers to help set up at 8:30 AM.

Please let me know if you can help. Click **HERE** to contact Gary



If you know of a good conservation project that needs support, please share your ideas with the committee. conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Women's Program

We had a great morning at Mission Bay for he ladies Walk and Wade event. Thank you to Tyler at Mission Bay Fly Fishing! He and his friends were super fun guides, and were more than just guides offering extensive help with all of our casts.

It was a fishless morning but you know how Mission Bay can be when you're wading, it doesn't always produce! We had three new young women and also someone who has been in the club longer than I have! It's so amazing to see the mix of long-time fishers with the new surge of young women!









Questions or suggestions? Contact Brooke Women's Programs

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a nationwide non-profit dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education, classes and outings. The Program has been in existence since 2006. Our San Diego Program is one of 200+ such programs in the U.S. Each Program is organized and maintained through a local fly fishing club. Our San Diego program is actively supported by the San Diego Fly Fishers.

We currently have eleven SDFF Volunteers and thirteen PHW Veteran Participant. Our summer programs are currently meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Santee Lakes in Santee. This is a fee lake, but if you wish to join us, simply advise the gate guard you are with PHW and entrance is free. All disabled military, active duty or retired, are welcome to join us as a Veteran Participant. If you are a member of SDFF, an experienced fly fisher, and want to join us as a Volunteer, we would love to have you. For our Veteran participants, no prior fly fishing (or any fishing) experience is necessary. There is no charge for this program and all fly fishing and fly tying equipment and material are available free of charge.

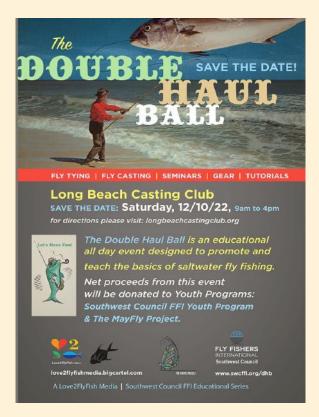




Please RSVP to our San Diego Program Lead, Lee McElravy We are happy to address any questions you may have to help you get started.

Please look at our Club's PHW Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/PHWFF.SDFF/

SWCFFI



The Double Haul Ball Saturday, December 10

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the LARGEST gathering of saltwater experts and fly fishing information on the West Coast, right here in Southern California. The Double Haul Ball will be held at the Long Beach Casting Club and will feature panel discussions about beach, near shore and off shore fishing, along with knot tying, flies and gear selections. Over 20 regional experts will be on hand to help you get started in this great aspect of fly fishing or to help you up your current game. Plus casting demonstrations and lessons! Watch for more details and schedule of panels coming soon.

For more info, click: The Double Haul Ball, 2022

Presented by Love2FlyFishMedia and the Southwest Council, FFI

On **Saturday February 04**, **2023** the town of Bishop and the Eastern Sierra will welcome anglers from California, Nevada and abroad to take part in the **2nd Annual Bishop Trout Rodeo**. The Bishop Trout Rodeo is an open competition targeting trout on some of the most scenic and productive waters in California. The tournament will be held rain or shine and will be open to both fly and conventional anglers (in separate divisions) of all ability levels who will compete for the prizes of longest stringer landed and released and the largest single fish. For more information, including times, location, rules and when to sign up, please visit: Rodeo

For press info general questions, or sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International Michael Schweit 818.6019702 specialprojects@swcffi.org

The Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International represents all of Southern California and Nevada. Fly Fishers International is a 54 year old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. Fly Fishers International and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on an national and regional level.

The **SDFF** is affiliated with the **Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International**<u>John Wylie</u>, Representative

For more information or to join FFI visit: https://flyfishersinternational.org/

Membership

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Ready to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers? Please support your club by planning to renew for 2023!

Renew online

We are all about fishing and having fun!

Don't miss out! Join or renew!

You can renew your membership online though the <u>SDFF website</u>, or you can renew in person at our monthly programs; or you can download an application on our website and mail a check to:

SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS C/O Stroud Tackle 1457 Morena Blvd San Diego, CA 92110

Questions? Alan Thompson

Or Renew at the next Monthly SDFF Meeting

SDFF has four membership levels

Individual.....\$40

Family.....\$50

Individual Military.....FREE (Active Duty Only)

Renewing your membership (or your family's) is simple.

Click here to Join then follow the instructions.

Volunteers Needed

San Diego Fly Fishers is a service organization. So please ask yourself...

"What service can I provide to my Club"? Service Opportunities

Fishing Outings

This is a chance to help run a fishing outing for Club members. We are seeking volunteers to organize a day of fishing on our local waters. It's fun and easy. Pick you favorite water and contact <u>Kai Schumann</u> and we will help you get started.

- Pick a local lake
- Pick a location for the bay
- Pick a location for the surf

The whole idea is to involve more members in creating fishing events and get us on the water monthly.

Fundraising

 We need 2 or 3 more volunteers to help serve on the committee, please consider helping out. No volunteers, no fundraiser!

Greeters are needed at our Monthly meetings! We are planning to have 2 or 3 greeters at each event to help new people into our Club. It's a great way to serve the Club and meet new Fly-fishers. Please contact Jim Castelluzzo

Project Healing Waters

- Help with this important program that serves Veterans in need.
- If you know of a Veteran in need Please let us know!
- Contact: <u>Lee McElravy</u> to learn how you can contribute.

Women's Program

Please contact Brooke Sargent <u>Women's Programs</u> for information and way to get involved.

Fishing!





Ryan and friends on the Colorado River.





Michael at La Ventana, Baja.





Kirk is hooking some slabs at Murray.

Guides and Resources

San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse nor recommend any particular Guide or Business.

This Information is intended to provide the reader with known providers of services related to fly fishing in our local area and in California. This is not intended to be a complete list of available services.

Guides

Eastern Sierra:

Sierra Drifters

Sierra Troutdoorsman

Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing

Kern River Fly Shop

Wild Fly Anglers

Northern California:

Acosta Fly Fishing (Steelhead)

<u>Fine and Far Fly Fishing</u> (Steelhead/Spey Trips)

Baiocchi's Troutfitters

San Diego Bay/Surf/Lakes:

Conway Bowman

Tyler Vanosdell

Fly Fishing Equipment:

STROUD TACKLE

THE FLY STOP

Flies by Favorite

River Flows and Reports

Dreamflows

USGS Flows

California Data Exchange

Lower Owens River



Tyler Vanosdell, Mission Bay Fly Fishing

Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



















GRETCHEN YEAROUS CERTIFIED CASTING INSTRUCTOR

We need your help getting rid of Carp at Lake Cuyamaca!



CARP ANGLERS WANTED:

CONVENTIONAL ROD AND REEL, SPEAR OR BOW: Kill a Carp and FISH FOR FREE! Or, TENT CAMP FOR FREE! PROOF REQUIRED!

LAKE CUYAMACA NEEDS YOUR HELP! KILL A CARP!

Board of Directors

San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2022

James Castelluzzo President
Vice President vacant
Andrea Rae Treasurer
Mel Ochs Secretary
Alan Thompson Membership

Sunday Fly Casting

Bruce Harris At large

Mark Hedderson Editor Finny Facts / Indicator

Tim Huckaby <u>Speaker Programs</u>

Fundraising/At large

Brooke Sargent Women's Programs
Kai Schumann Outings Coordinator

Gary Strawn <u>Conservation</u>

John Wylie <u>Casting Program Instruction</u>

SWC-FFI Liaison

Committee Chairpersons

Jack Duncan Rod Building

Lucky Ketcham Fly Tying Congress
Lee McElravy Project Healing Waters

Web Master

David Collins Internet Resources Admin

The Indicator

Emailed twice a month with updates and breaking news!

Make sure you are on the list to stay informed.

Follow SDFF adventures and news our FACEBOOK page. Post your own adventures and pictures.

San Diego Fly Fishers

The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the last Monday of each month at the San Diego River Park Foundation Office on Pacific Hwy. (Currently held on Zoom.)

For Directions to all Club Meetings, Clinics and Fly tying classes visit our website at: Activities Maps



Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Tailing Loops

I am, by all accounts, a grownup. I have gainful employment, a wife, two dogs and a son who has (almost) graduated from a prestigious California university (based on the fact that it made Playboy's top ten list of *Party Schools*). So it may come as a surprise that one of my greatest pleasures in life is engaging in an act of deceit and outright lying: I like to play hooky, as in taking a day off and going fishing without telling anyone. A recent trip with the club to Lake Cuyamaca reminded me of the time I got caught.

My daily commute sends me eastbound on Highway 8. Before turning south, I can see Cuyamaca Peak in the distance and I yearn for the peaceful pond that lies just beyond it. About 10 years ago, I didn't turn south, with a float tube and fly rod I kept heading east for some unauthorized R&R. I knew the risks inherent is this folly, I could have an unexpected health problem, or my truck could break down, or get tboned by some fool running late to work. In the event of an accident, my wife would demand (rightfully) an explanation, to which I had no answer other than I wanted to ditch life's responsibilities for a day. Why not just tell her I was going? Yes, I could, and she would understand but would also hit me with "Well, if you've got time to go fishing then you should have time for" and thus the catalyst for playing hooky.

Anyway, I get to the lake and lob out my secret weapon (a rarely used fly known as a woolly bugger). I'd fished the lake dozens of times and knew some spots. I also used a straight 8lb floro leader, having broken off some larger fish on that 5x junk, and since the water clarity is almost nil, the fish are not line shy.

I caught and released a few standard-sized hatchery fish and was trolling (a highly skilled fly fishing maneuver I learned from Bob Pharoah) my way back to the dock when I hooked a big rainbow. It was football plump, having downed more than its share of fish pellets back at the hatchery (where it lived the week before), and measured just shy of 27 inches. The fight was not great, but the trout's density gave it plenty of leverage, and though It never took much

line, neither was it eager to give any back. Still, after about 10 minutes I had it at the net, only to discover that it didn't fit. I'd get it's head and about a third of its body in, and it would flop out when I tried to lift, so I had to grab it by the head and haul it onto my lap.

Technically, it's against the rules to release trout at Cuyamaca, and I'm not adverse to keeping a hatchery fish once in a while; moreover, this was the biggest trout I'd ever caught. No stringer, so I hugged it back to shore. In the parking lot, one of the lake staff saw the fish and insisted I go up to the bait shop to get it weighed. Ten pounds. They wanted a photograph too and I consented, forgetting that I was not really there. Then, they asked my name.... Oops, this could be incriminating, as the staff reports the week's catch to Western Outdoor News, so to cover my guilty tracks I said "Bill Stroud." Yes, I was mighty clever using an alias. No one would ever know I played hooky from work. Heading home, positively elated, The traffic became increasingly heavy with people leaving work. Suckers!

Back in my driveway, I was arrogantly hoisting the dead fish to the admiration of my neighbor when my wife drove up. "Did you go fishing today?" The tone of her question meant I had some explaining to do. It was awkward and my days of AWOL fishing were now officially over. Luckily, my wife is somewhat tolerant of my indiscretions and also very fond of grilled fish. Hey, better the fish than me. I fired up the charcoal.



Editor's Note: Bill Stroud, a better man than I'll ever be, was credited with the catch in the following week's WON, which may have been a surprise to those who knew he passed away earlier in the year.