

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

JUNE 2012

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 17, No. 06

Monthly Meeting

SDFF Annual Raffle 2012

Annual Raffle is June 4th

**Buy Your
Tickets
NOW!**

Don't forget Annual Raffle Meeting will be held at the Southwestern Yacht Club. See map on page 3.

Social hour starts at 6:00 PM

Raffle start at 7:00 PM

On June 4th the San Diego Fly Fishers are hosting the Club's most exciting annual raffle and silent auction ever. The Club's Annual Fundraiser will again be at the Southwestern Yacht Club in Point Loma. You are invited to come early and enjoy the Yacht Clubs restaurant and bar, or to just enjoy the hospitality of this beautiful setting.

This year's raffle is shaping up to be something very special. The prizes to be won are exceptional. The raffle will include 8 shining new fly reels and 8 new fly boxes stuffed with flies. There are new fly lines, wadding staffs, chest packs, fly tying kits, and much more. We have \$900 in gift certificates including 6 for \$100 each, and there are 10 fly rods ranging from a sweet 3 weight up to two saltwater ready 8 weights. The Grand Prize is an 8 foot 4 weight Bamboo Fly Rod handcrafted by our own Jon Holland, but don't forget, you must be present and a member in good standing to win the Grand Prize. Don't miss out on this terrific raffle.

In addition to the great raffle prizes the silent auction table has some great items to bid on. There are nine fly fishing trips that will take you from fishing for bass close to home to staking trout with Jim Roberts in Northern California or fishing some of the best trout

waters in Utah. One of the Utah trips is to fish on the Green River and the other to the Orvis endorsed fishing lodge at Falcon's Ledge. In addition there is a trip to fish the salt with Louie Zimm and Jeff Solis, and a great trip to my favorite Bed and Breakfast in the Eastern Sierra, Rainbow Tarns at Lake Crowley.

There will be a special Project Healing Water table with a beautiful PHWFF Limited Edition Fly Reel and a framed PHWFF Campaign Ribbon Fly Plate Poster. These items have been donated by PHWFF and the monies raised on the Project Healing Waters items will be donated to support the SDFF Project Healing Waters program at Balboa Naval Hospital.

There will also be a special collectors table with some unusual items such as 1952 Japanese Bamboo Fly Rod, and a number of rare First Edition fly-fishing books. There will also be many bargain items with very low opening bids, something for everyone.

One of the highlights of the Silent Auction will be a hand carved Golden Trout by World Champion Fish Carver, Bob Berry. This beautiful carving would sell in a gallery for \$1200 to \$1500. The starting bid will be \$500. The other very special item is a 3 piece, 7 foot 9

continued on page 2

Rose and Roger repeatedly hound me (appropriately) to submit the *President's Message* by the fifteenth of each month. This column has been sitting on my desk for the past several days. I have intentionally delayed submitting it in the hope circumstances would change and I would be able to share more upbeat information with you. Unfortunately, I cannot do that.

For those of you who missed our May 7th meeting and do not utilize our Member's Forum Bulletin Board, please be aware of the following. On Saturday, April 28th, **Bill Stroud** collapsed while in the process of closing Stroud Tackle. He was treated for 2-3 days at

Scripps and then transferred to The Springs at Pacific Regent, 3884 Nobel Drive, La Jolla. He is in room

Bill's condition is changing hourly. The most serious diagnosis at this juncture is the discovery of a heart problem which has apparently been in existence for some time. Meanwhile, he continues to be treated for various infections and malignant lymphoma.

Although he sleeps frequently, when awake Bill repeatedly expresses his heartfelt appreciation for all the attention he is receiving. If you have a few minutes, I would strongly encourage you to stop by and say "Hello." I know he enjoys the visits and they really do perk him up.

It may seem incongruous, but there is a certain symmetry in relating Bill Stroud's current condition and touting our Annual Raffle. As an organization, we know from the Club History that we date back to 1957. Bill is the sole living Past President from that very early era. We would not be around for the past fifty-five

Annual Raffle 2012

continued from page 1

inch, 5 weight Bamboo Fly Rod crafted by Jon Holland. Bamboo rods of this quality sell around the country for \$1200 to \$2500. The opening bid for this item will be \$500. Remember you have to be there to bid, so plan to come early.

Remember that the Annual Raffle and Silent Auction is the Club's only fundraising event. The monies you spend on tickets and your bids in the auction provide us with the funds to support fly fishing conservation programs in San Diego and California. Join us at the Southwestern Yacht Club on June 4th and help us make this our best year yet.

Art Reifman
Annual Raffle Coordinator



years but for the efforts of individuals like Bill and those of you who have supported our Annual Raffle.

If you have the opportunity, read the *San Diego Fly Fishers History*. We have always been a unique public service organization in terms of our contributions to our members and the community. However, none of that could have been accomplished (nor will it continue) without a successful Annual Raffle. What our Club provides today is exponentially larger than anything which might have been anticipated in 1957. I asked for (and received) Bill's permission and blessing to use his name in advertising the upcoming Raffle. We will engage in no less than ten public service projects this year, in addition to the monthly meetings for our members, the Sunday casting clinics, etc. These programs require a financial commitment.

Please join me at our Annual Raffle on Monday evening, June 4th at the Southwestern Yacht Club to meet that commitment.

Lee McElravy



San Diego Fly Fishers Annual Fundraiser

date: Monday June 4, 2012

time: 6:00 PM social hour, food and drink available
at the Yacht Club bar

7:00 PM raffle & auction

location: Southwestern Yacht Club
(NOT Sierra Elementary!!! **See map below**)

The Board of Directors of the San Diego Fly Fishers is pleased to announce that SDFF will again hold its Annual Fundraiser at the Southwestern Yacht Club. We invite everyone to get together before the Raffle begins for drinks, something to eat and good company at the Yacht Club's Bar and Grill.

Our Annual Raffle and Silent auction is our only annual fundraiser and all proceeds from the raffle will be donated to local conservation programs. So please join us and help us raise money for these worthwhile causes.

There are many great prizes to win in the raffle and some great trips and gifts to bid on in the silent auction. This year our grand prize is a **Handcrafted Bamboo Fly Rod** by master rod maker **Jon Holland**. You must be present at the raffle and an active member to win the grand prize. A **second Handcrafted Bamboo Fly Rod by Jon** will also be up for bid in the **silent auction** along with a **hand-carved trout** by **5 time World Champion Fish Carver Bob Berry**.

It's not too late to buy more tickets or donate gear for the raffle or silent auction !!

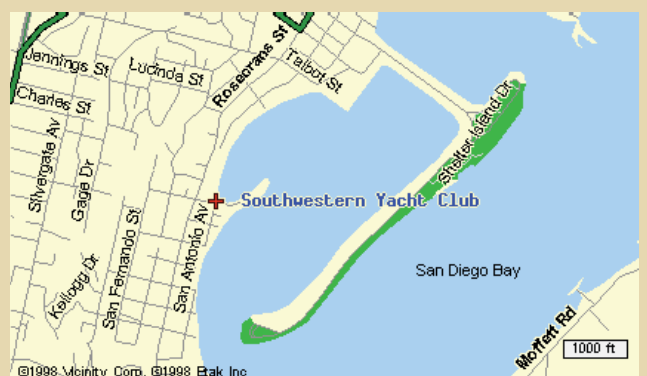
Buy raffle tickets at the May 7 program meeting, at Stroud Tackle, SoCal Fly Fishing Outfitters, or at the Yacht Club on the night of the raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25.

If you have new or slightly used fly fishing gear to donate for the raffle or silent auction, contact raffle chair, Art Reifman or one of the SDFF board members.

Directions to SWYC from I8 West or I5 South

Exit Rosecrans West to Owen St.
Left on Owen 1 block to San Antonio
Left on San Antonio 2 blocks to Qualtrough
Right on Qualtrough & follow SWYC entry at end of street

Southwestern Yacht Club
2702 Qualtrough St.
San Diego, CA 92106



Members Fishing Reports

Robert Pharoah Apr 19

Gretchen Yearous, Barry

Pechersky and I launched into 54 degree water at Lake Cuyamaca. Barry had three solid strikes before he had to leave early. Gretchen put two nice Rainbows in the net after she broke off two others. I think she must have some of Lucky's materials. I ended the day with three Rainbows and two LDRs. The weather was great and it felt good to get back on the water.

Lucky Ketcham Apr 23

Paul Costa, Mark Lindshield and I tried float tubing Mission Bay on the incoming tide 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. We bounced red and orange fly patterns in the narrow channel between the east tip of Fiesta Island and the Mission Bay Visitor's Center. The bait anglers on shore were catching 2 to 3 pound Spotfin Croaker using Razor Clams. I could not resist making a trip to shore to talk to them. One of the anglers caught 6 between 4 PM and 6:30. Yesterday he caught a nice fish estimated to be 7 pounds. He just started the other day and couldn't tell me how many days the run has been hot. I suspect it started before the New Moon, Saturday April 21st.

The fly fishers bounced our small flies on the bottom of the channel without a bump. I tried Kim's Z Worm, Piconi Prowler, Rabbit Clouser, Estaz Surf Puffs with maybe one bump. I used 10 pound tippet and a Rio Striper sinking line to no avail. I am sorry that I talked my self out of using some scent on the flies. Fishing for Croaker without scent on the fly

is like fishing for catfish with a fly - you can expect slow fishing. I wish I had Bob running around with his fish finder. The Croakers have big swim bladders like the rest of the Drum family. The pods or schools of big fish should show up on a fish finder. Flies always work better if you know you are dropping them among feeding fish. Blind slow fishing a fly on the bottom for 3 hours is pretty boring. Paul Costa had his yellow kayak and could zip around. He went to shore to practice his distance casting from the point of Fiesta Island. Long casts to the inside of the eel grass produced a nice 12 to 13 bass for him.

The float was nice. As the evening approached at 7:30 to 8:00 the breeze died down, the skies opened up for some light and almost a sunset. I always love to see the lights come on at the Big De Anza Mobile Estates. Mark Lindshield and I fished side by side for the last half hour and we had some good conversations about fishing and engineering. Fish with Mark and Paul sometime. They are fun to be around.

The good news is that large Spotfin Croaker are making their spawning runs into Mission Bay. They will be moving back and forth with the tides for at least another 5 or 6 days. If you want to play old school surf/bay fishing - there will be a minus tide tomorrow morning at 6 AM. Bring a shovel and dig for razor clams at the lowest tide and edge of the eel grass. You have to dig fast since razor clams can run down their tubes very quickly. The shore anglers were throwing 2 ounce eggs sinkers to get their lines out into the channel. The long white/cream clam bodies were threaded on large size 2 circle hooks. They

used about 3 feet of tippet below a big brass swivel. This is almost exactly the way we fished in the 70's and 80's, except we would also pump some ghost shrimp and buy marine worms to give the spots a menu choice. Nothing beats pencil clams and Inn Keeper Worms for Spotfin. Squid and cut anchovies only catch bass and sting rays. You could predict what fish you would catch by the bait. Similarly you can predict what fish will eat orange worm and ghost shrimp patterns and which will eat bait fish patterns. Maybe they might eat a white colored worm / clam pattern, since the razor clams are white. Fishing is always a puzzle to be solved. If you catch fish every time you go out it would be too easy to be fun.

Lucky Ketcham Apr 24

The seasoned bay fisherman laughed at me when I told him I was trying to catch them (Spotfin Croaker) on a plain fly. He dug up pencil razor clams for free on the low tide. Picture him low tech - long rod, one hook, egg sinker. I am dressed in \$250 waders, \$300 fly rod, \$100 giant fly reel, \$70 fly line, \$280 float tube, \$60 inflatable life vest, \$40 wading shoes, \$40 fins, \$20 sun glasses, \$30 sun hat, \$100 worth of flies in my bag..... and he has 6 fish totally 15 pounds of meat in two hours - I didn't get a bite. But..... I was a fly fishing purist and did not use bait or scent.

I am laughing at my self after 40 years of bay fishing. Also he was ignorant of the law that says he and his friends can't drink alcohol on SD Beaches. They had warm fire, music and booze - just like the 70's and 80's.

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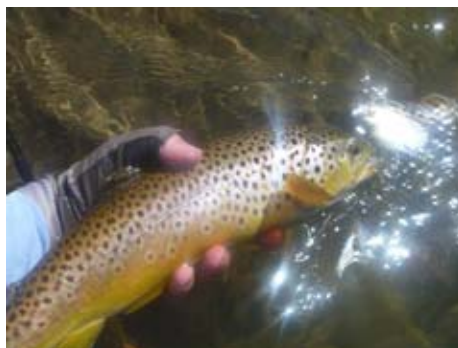


Members Fishing Reports

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I celebrated finishing my taxes by going up to the east side for some fishing last weekend. We fished the East Walker two days and then Hot Creek on the way home. I caught some nice fish on the EW, including the brown trout in the pictures on an H & L Variant (my favorite dry fly). Hatches on the EW were limited, you'd see a few bugs pop up and fish along with them by the time you switched from the nymph rig to a dry it was over. The big fish of the trip was a 19" rainbow at the HC Interpretive Center on a HBI Nymph (pmd).

—Mark Sweat (see photos)



Mission Bay at Ingrahm St. Bridge
Fly Fishing Report, 4/18/2012
Lucky Ketcham, Plamen Yanakiev



Plamen Yanakiev took me up on my offer to try fishing under the Ingrahm Street Bridge in the early morning, Wednesday, April 18, 2012. We met at 6:00 AM in the light fog of early morning Mission Bay. It was still dark and all the yellow, white and red lights of the bridge welcomed us. It was cool but not cold enough that I needed more than a long sleeved flannel shirt. The air was still and the water flat as glass. The tide was still rising but well past the

2/3 point. The eel grass that is normally flat on the low tide was already covered with new water. I was afraid that any halibut that might have been holding in those secret holes under the bridge might have already followed the big schools on top smelt into the back bay. We would have to get on the water to see.

Al Venton would be happy to know that Plamen used the Stern Float Tube Al gave the SDFF Mentor Program. He entrusted it to me to lend out to new members of the club and get them to experience the joy of bouncing around in the bay and get out where the big fish live. Plamen is relatively new to San Diego. He has fished from half day boat in the salt, but never in Mission Bay. Thanks to Al, we would get this young engineer to test his skills. Thanks to the generosity of Bob McKay I was able to purchase his used Out Cast Fat Cat at a great price.

I loved my old black Fish Cat but I guess I wore it out. One of the great things about belonging to two fly fishing clubs is that you meet some great people and if you have a problem with a leaky float tube or almost any problem – your friends will help you. Fly Fishers are always upgrading their equipment and sometimes new members can benefit.

The Fat Cat – is designed for a slightly more “Robust Angler.” It has a different, perhaps better inflation valve than the Fat Cat. Both U-Boat float tubes are easy to get in and are very comfortable to sit in. I would recommend them to anyone.

I set Plamen up with a 250 grain sinking line with a 25 foot shooting head. I attached one of my big Enrico Puglisi Smelt patterns and a smaller Kim's Z worm above it to give him double the chance.

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Members Fishing Reports

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We used straight 10 pound fluorocarbon leaders about 7 feet long. I set myself up with my deep water rig. 15 feet of Cortland Lead Core LC 30 as a shooting head attached to Red Amnesia 25 pound mono. I put a single heavy EP Line side smelt on the end of 7 feet of 10 pound tippet. I always use a fixed loop knot to give it maximum movement. I told Plamen that we could try smaller Clouser minnows but we were really only out to see if the big halibut were under the bridge. Go Big or Go Home! We both took extra smaller flies out with us, just in case.



I thought the morning was going to go great when I kicked up the west side of the bridge and made my first drop. I drifted only 10 feet before the tip of my rod was dancing around with the weight of a nice 12 inch spotted bay bass. Plamen was only 15 feet away when we started to see the color. I let the fish run a little, telling P that it has been a long time since I had a fish on the line and wanted to enjoy it a for a few minutes. The Tug is the Drug. The fish came in and P was a little disappointed about the small size of the spotted bay bass. I told him

that they are slow growing and this one was probably 9 or 10 years old. That is why we release most of them for someone else to catch again. The tide was moving at good pace and we could drift the 300 feet to the far side of the bridge without kicking our fins. Then we turned around and kicked hard to get back up current for the second drift. Plamen is an engineer and could easily understand the tidal scour depressions in front of and behind the bridge. He understands the "Conservation of Energy" and could picture thousands of top smelt moving with the incoming and out- going tides. I told him how the smelt might move on the inside on the eel grass beds on the high tide and the outside of the eel grass on the lower tides. I tried to explain the little that I have learned about fishing Fisherman's Channel. All the time we were drifting and bouncing our big flies on the bottom of the bay. I could feel fish hit the big fly and fight for a few seconds. The spotted bay bass really shake their heads and seem to be able to get off the barbless hooks easier than croaker. Plamen had a few Long Distance Releases and I had at least 6 before the morning was out. All the fish on the line acted like bass. The halibut that we were targeting were either not home or had move on earlier in the tide. If I had fished every week, I would know if I missed them or I am too early. My fishing journals tell me that Art Contreras caught a 15 pound halibut on Memorial Day a few years ago. My hopes are still high that I will catch a few. I let Plamen use the LC 13 rig to

see if he liked it. The benefit of the heavy line and the heavy fly is that it has direct contact to the fly with very little stretch. The 15 to 20 feet of sinking line is almost vertical as you drift along walking the dog. You know exactly how much line it takes to get to the bottom, even in a fast current. Fat fly lines are often caught in the current and the fly is lifted out of the feeding zone. The deep water rig is cheap. The Amnesia running line lets you shoot line a long distance if you want. The rig goes into the water like a lead rope. I do not use it in 3 to 10 feet of water. The presentation is not wonderful. When I fish the edges of the eel grass, I will switch to a lighter line or a floating line. I wasn't a very good fishing guide today. Plamen will still have to catch his first bass and halibut in the bay. I know he will have a little more confidence and hopefully learned to fish in his own backyard. I told him the stories of fishing at sunset every night after work and catching 10 to 15 bass per night. I think he believes me and will try it. It makes no sense for me to store the float tube while I am off fishing for the summer. Plamen will have it and will be able to fish with us at the bridge or Tideland's. Invite him to fish if you want to meet an interesting gentleman. Lucky



Casting for Recovery & Project Healing Waters Raffle



Who: Benefit raffle for the Southern California chapter of Casting for Recovery & Project Healing Waters. Proceeds will be split equally between both charities.

What: One prize package consisting of:

- Bamboo fly rod, tube and rod sock donated by: Renaissance Rods (www.renaissanceflyrods.com)
- Custom landing net donated by: Sierra Nets (www.sierra-nets.com)
- Custom lanyard donated by: Western Visions Lanyards (www.WesternVisionsLanyards.com)

Why: To support both top shelf charities in their endeavors to promote both physical and emotional healing to breast cancer survivors and disabled veterans

When: Winner will be drawn June 1st 2012 using a random name generator.

How: Purchase tickets for \$10.00 each. Send Cash or Checks made out to the **SSFFC** and mail to:

***For additional details & pictures visit Renaissance Rods blog: www.renaissanceflyrods.com/blog ***



FLY OF THE MONTH

Butch Caddis

Steve Piper recommended I try this interesting caddis fly pattern designed for fast water. It can be pulled underwater like an egg laying diving caddis and it will pop back up. I like bullet head deer hair patterns, they cast well and are fairly durable. Become a fan of Kelly Galloup and you cannot go wrong. This pattern matches many western Caddisflies including the Mother's Day caddis. You can rip it to make it sink. Kelly says it is great fast water caddis pattern that floats like a cork.

Hook: 14-18 dry - Daiichi 1180- normally Kelly ties this in 16 and 18.

Thread: GSP 200 (Gel Spun thread is strong - you may use standard 6/0 tan thread like UNI or Danville flat waxed nylon 70 denier.)

Tail: Antron - amber or fluorescent green (short egg sac)

Body: Superfine Dub - tan or olive - very thin body.

Wing: Antron and Natural Deer - short fine white tail (well marked deer - tips plus the butts are folded over to form a bullet head. The butts of the deer hair make this fly float better than standard deer hair caddis patterns. They are clipped as a butch hair cut.

Legs: Small round rubber - black and white centipede legs (optional - especially on the size 18, Kelly skips the legs.) The original pattern did not have rubber legs, now the commercial versions all have rubber legs.

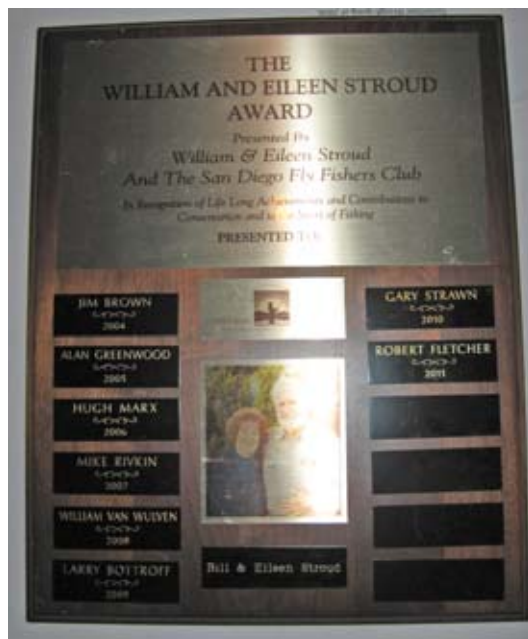


These pictures are from PlanetTrout.com. There are other interesting caddis patterns on this site. <http://planettrout.wordpress.com/2010/04/03/some-caddis-thoughts/>

Lucky



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



EILEEN STROUD CONSERVATION FUND



Donations are gratefully
 accepted
 Make checks payable to Eileen
 Stroud Conservation Fund

Mail to:
 Stroud Conservation Fund
 1457 Morena Blvd
 San Diego, CA 92110

All funds collected in Eileen's name will be donated to fresh water fish conservation or research programs in San Diego County.

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Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill Stroud, Eileen Stroud (in mem), Bernie Hammes (in mem), Hugh Turner (in mem), Nancy Pitts, Bob Wisner (in mem), Ken Armer, Glen Paul (in mem), Betty Coram, Ned Sewell, John Kasten (in mem), Leo Bergevin (in mem), George Beach (in mem), Bob Camp (in mem), Marvin Darling, Gene Jerzewski, Oz Osborn (in mem), Robbie Robinson (in mem), John Gauld, Lloyd Jefferies (in mem), Doug Joseph, Gary Hilbers, Tom Smith

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Cutoff date for **July FINNY FACTS**
 articles---**Friday June 15th**

Send articles to:
 Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
 E-mail at
 Thanks!!

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

Paul Woolery

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

For unselfish and outstanding service
 to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2004-Joe Bain
1992-Bob Camp	2005-Jim Reeg
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2006-John Kasten
1994-Ed Velton	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1995-Bob Wisner	2008-Louie Zimm
1996-Gary Hilbers	2009-Warren Lew
1997-Jack Bentley	2010- Paul Woolery
1998-Gordie Zimm	2011-Gary Strawn
1999-Gretchen Yearous	
2000-Tom Smith	
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki	
2002-Larry Sorensen	
2003-Jim Tenuto	



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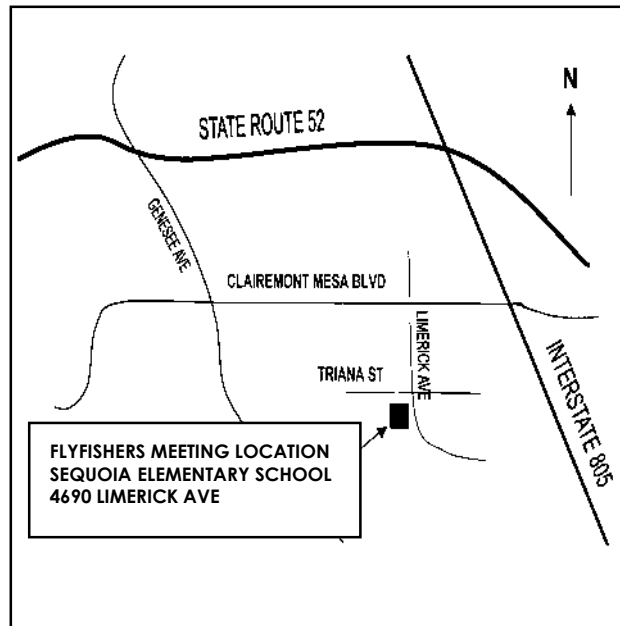
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Video & Library-
 Bill Stock
Web Page-
 David Collins
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com

Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



San Diego Flyfishers
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**San Diego
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SINCE 1962