

## Lake Barrett Always an Adventure

*Gretchen Yearous Fishes Lake Barrett for Bass and Bluegill*

No matter what time of day or date we call for the reservation, our annual foursome always ends up with the same 3rd week in April and yes, we grouse about the 5 a.m. gate. The lake opened a month early in March but because of the previous hot weather, the bass were off the nest the week we fished. But boy did we get into the bluegill.

Okay, I admit I have a goofy hat which fits my desire not to have anymore sun on these wrinkles. BUT BOY! WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT BLUEGILL. We weighed that one at around 1-1/2 lbs.

The water level was extremely low. In fact, a few years ago when the water was at its lowest for the year, we were fishing in the top foot of the trees sticking out of the water in the Pine Creek arm. This year we were fishing in the same trees looking up 20 feet to the tree tops. I estimate the water level was somewhere around 60' to

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## Annual Sdff Raffle and Silent Auction Raises Over \$6,700 for Conservation Programs



*Kim Jones was absolutely ecstatic over her winning silent auction bid for a 6-1/2' R. L. Winston 2 wt. rod. Value of the rod was \$695. You'll have to ask Kim what she bid.*

## Come to the Sdff Annual Fly Tying Round Table

Last month's very successful raffle will be a hard act to follow. However July's meeting will include our second most popular event, the annual **Fly Tying Round Table**. The Club is blessed with many very experienced and accomplished fly tiers. One of the most successful Club activities is the weekly tying meeting at the Lake Murray Water District. Our beginning and intermediate tying classes are always full thanks to our dedicated instructors who work hard at their art. Yes, fly tying is as much an art as it is a skill. You can take it as far as you want to pursue, from tying simple but effective patterns for fishing to making beautiful presentation flies.

The program will feature many of our best tiers like Eileen Stroud, who has been tying flies since childhood, Gary "the Fly" Hilbers, Tom "the Nymph Man" Smith and Larry "Extended Body" Sorensen. There will also be tiers of more questionable skill levels like Jim Tenuto (who ties just one fly – the Elkhair Caddis) and Jim Reeg (who ties just two flies – the black and the olive Wooly Bugger) who are living proof that anyone can tie effective and fishable patterns if they set their mind to it!

There will be trout flies, bass flies and saltwater flies. This is your chance to observe up close proven patterns and tying techniques, new patterns and materials, and the latest state of the art equipment.

**Come join us for an evening of fur, feathers and fun!**

### REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for the  
July meeting

(report at 6:15 PM):

**Lloyd Jefferies and**

**Dick Mount**

*Thank you, Mona Morebello*

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, July 9th, 2001

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

**\$9,030.00.** That's right, \$9,030.00, or said another way Nine Thousand and Thirty Dollars. That's the revenue from our Annual Raffle. We spent about \$2,250.00 on prizes, keeping under our budget of \$2,500.00. That means we have **\$6,780.00** for conservation donations. The board meeting

in July will be used to earmark some of those funds for local, regional and state programs.

By the way, that's the best we've ever done.

Ticket sales were well over \$6,000.00 and about \$2,500.00 came in on the silent auction.

Great prizes equal great ticket sales.

We had over \$1,000 in gift certificates, most from **Stroud's Tackle**. We had five rods, six reels, a float tube and fin, really, just about everything and everything an angler could possibly need and want. Generous club members donated many of these items.

Thanks and tips of the old fishing hat go out to many people and companies...too many to list here. Here in this issue of *Finny Facts*, however, you will find a list of those generous folks and businesses responsible for our success. Thank the members, and spend your money with the companies that helped us.

I'll use this column here to thank a few people who really helped turned our Raffle into a huge success. **Bill Stroud**...again the consummate Master of Ceremony. **Gordie Zimm**...the ticket mistress. She kept track of over 1,500 tickets and the checks and cash that came in with them. **Eileen Stroud**...the roving ticket saleswoman, who mingled in the audience the night of the raffle. **Pat Case** and **Jim Reeg**...the former presidents who were at Sequoia Elementary at 5:30 p.m. to help with the set-up. **Sherry Brainerd**...pitched in with ticket sales on the night of the raffle and alternately was the Chief Drum Spinner and Ticket



**JIM TENUTO**

Plucker. **Warren Lew**...the not-so-secret shopper who helped select a number of the fine gifts on the table and the only man in town who knows where to get a ticket drum.

**Jack Bentley**...who not only pulled several wonderful trips out his magician's hat but also was the Grand Poobah of the Silent Auction

table. **Larry Sorensen**...The Captain of Raffles, who lent his "consulting" services to this year's Raffle committee. **Carl Stanzone**...what can you say about a man who donates a hand crafted bamboo fly rod? Not enough.

When you see some of these fine volunteers and hearty workers thank them. This stuff doesn't happen by accident!

A last word on the Raffle. For those who won a prize but were not in attendance, please make arrangements to pick up these gifts by the August meeting. You have two opportunities to claim your prizes. The first will be at our **July 9th** meeting and the last will be the **August 7th** meeting. Any prizes still left unclaimed will become the property of the club. (Note: if you won a gift certificate these were mailed the week of June 18th.)

The school will be a fitting venue for our next meeting, a fly tying roundtable. Some of the club's best (**Tom Smith, Gary Hilbers** and **Elaine Stroud**) and worst (**me**) fly tiers will show off their skills at the next meeting. Even if one of your vices isn't leaning over a vise and convincing your spouse that \$50 is not a lot of

money to spend on a chicken neck, make plans to attend.

Not only will you see a variety of different patterns being tied, but also you'll be guaranteed to pick up some interesting tips on how to improve your own skills. Also, you'll see a number of different vises and tying tools.

A friend of the club and mine wrote me a letter about what he took to be some unkind words that I directed at *San Diego Union-Tribune* outdoors writer **Ed Zieralski**. That wasn't my intention so I'll use the column again to clear any confusion.

Ed wrote a column about cheating in bass fishing tournaments. In no way did he condone or approve of that behavior. Nor do I. In my President's Message, I shared some thoughts about what I thought fishing was not about and what it was all about. These were my views and my views only. They were not meant as a "contrast and compare" exercise.

I then ended the column with a short description of a Sunday morning I spent at the casting clinic with **Ned, John and the merry band** and suggested that here was a story worth writing. I believed that then and believe it more so now.

And that's it...

Ed subsequently wrote an article about fly-fishing during the opening weekend of trout season. He did mention our club, as a great source of information and a teaching resource, and featured one of *San Diego Fly Fishers'* members in the story.

A mutual friend told me that Ed is thinking of learning how to fly fish. Ed, there's a great bunch of guys and ladies waiting to teach you all they know about this great sport. 🦈



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## A Thank You List

**Thanks to these wonderful people whose generous donations helped make our Annual Raffle a great success:**

Sam & Mona Morebello, Two \$25.00 gift certificates to Stroud's Tackle  
Bob Atwood, 2 Corian Cutting boards  
Louise Kassler, \$200.00 donation used to buy a number of raffle prizes  
Bob Williams, Framed and mounted Bob's Bright Boy Fly  
Ansel Watrous, \$50.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
Tom Lowe, \$50.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
John Kasten, fly tying books  
Marty Reed, Christine Fong photograph  
Kerrol Beck, \$50.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
Bob Camp, \$50.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
Pat Case, Harding 9' rod case  
Jim Murphy, \$50.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
Rose & Roger Yamasaki, Decorate Fishing Art  
Bob Buss, fishing vest  
Bob Rubel, fly rod  
Nancy & Jack Fletcher, copy of Fly Fishing for Sharks  
Belden Rau, \$50.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
The Poway Geezers, \$140.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
Gary & Liz Farar, A new Spam recipe and a \$40.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
Kevin Sophy, new pair of woman's waders  
Sherry Brainerd, copy of The Longest Silence  
Mike Kaul, Two for one day of guided fishing in Pinedale, WY  
California Trout, 1990 Golden Trout print and stamp  
Nancy Pitts, frame, binoculars & \$25.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
Gordie & Louie Zimm, \$100.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle  
The Presidents (donated by past presidents of SDFF) Two \$150.00 gift certificate to Stroud's Tackle



*Bill Stroud once again was Master of Ceremonies for the annual SDFF raffle.*

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Thanks to these companies who also made generous donations:

Shakespeare, 8 ½ 6-7 weight 2piece rod, Pflugger reel, line and backing  
Bushnell Performance Optics, Two pairs of Bolle sunglasses  
Jim Teeny, Inc., \$25.00 Gift Certificate  
Hook & Hackle, \$25.00 Gift Certificate  
Big 5 Sporting Goods, \$25.00 Gift Certificate  
Wilderness Adventures, Four \$25.00 Discounts on purchase of \$100 in books  
Mel Krieger, Four casting videos  
Glacier Gloves, pair of gloves  
Abel Reels, Sportsman Lube System  
Saltery Lake Lodge, Two for one 6-day Alaskan Fishing Trip  
Flaming Gorge Lodge, 3 day trip for two, lodging and guides





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**Thanks to these companies that provided a generous discount to purchase some wonderful prizes:**

G. Loomis  
Scott Rod Company  
Bauer  
Umpqua Feather Merchants  
Renzetti  
Ross Reels  
Whiting Farms  
Caddis Manufacturing

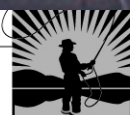
Special Thanks to **Stroud's Tackle** and **San Diego Fly Shop**. Bill & Eileen once again were extremely generous with their donations, over \$1,000.00 in prizes including a rod that Bill built that was part of an outfit. Jeff and Pete came through with \$400.00 in gift certificates for some of their salt water adventures.



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*From top clockwise: 1)  
Larry Sorensen with his 9'  
3-4 wt. St. Croix fly rod.  
2) Silent auction table  
always a big hit. Some  
great deals were had.  
3) Annual raffle always  
draws a large crowd.  
4) The table of prizes.*

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE CLUB BIOLOGIST

**A GOOD IDEA:** Entomologist/fly fisherman, Rick Hafele, makes a good suggestion in the July/August AMERICAN ANGLER. It is intended for learning what insects fly over a certain lake or stream, or part thereof, at any given time.

It's simple: Take a plastic tray about 18 by 18 inches/2 inches deep and attach foam floatation to the rim and attach it by a line to anything that will keep it in place.

Fill the tray about half full of water with a little dishwater soap in it (any insect landing in the solution will promptly sink because the soapy water destroys surface tension). Remove drowned insects very few days (or sooner) before they begin to disintegrate to an unidentifiable condition and before they change color. If you do this you can really "match the hatch" and you can be quite surprised at what proves to be the dominant flying food in an area.



**BOB WISNER**

Hafele's tray can be used for sampling and collecting in various areas of stream or lake. It's a good way to learn what insects are there at any time of day or night. But, first check for State or local collecting regulations. Some may apply.

### WITH THE BEST

**INTENTIONS:** Pacific salmon hatcheries may be hastening the extinction of wild stocks — according to SCIENCE NEWS, June 2, 2001. This is quite contrary to the long-heralded belief and practice that planting millions of smolts (fish of

the year) would enhance the oceanic feeding population of native wild fish. But it hasn't, as was recently discovered by the NMFS.

It was found that food in the feeding zones fluctuated in volume in regard to availability to smolts, and all the way of the food chain. Fat condition of oysters in the Columbia River mouth, a factor employed for some 25 years, had only average to

poor ranges. Populations that had gone out to sea when near-shore food supplies were low had high rates of mortality which was aggravated when large numbers of hatchery smolts entered the sea with them. In lean food years, the more hatchery smolts released the higher the mortality of wild smolts.

In short, there isn't enough food for the wild and hatchery smolts. And, the well fed hatchery smolts enter the sea bigger than wild ones and with bigger appetites. Having better physical condition, they outfeed and outgrow the wild ones and actually are replacing the wild adults. This was not supposed to happen. The Endangered Species Act requires that populations have to be sustainable in their natural environments and not be replaced by artificial means (plants).

The above is one more piece of evidence making it clear that the ocean is limited in its capacity to feed animals. Also, humans have shrunk the habitat of wild salmon in cutting off spawning streams by ladderless dams and stream/lake drawdowns for irrigation, and contamination of water, fresh and salt. 🐟

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## Lake Barrett Adventure

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80' down. The visibility was barely one foot.

This was not a banner day for bass catching on flies. In fact, each of us only caught 1 bass before 10:00 a.m. on a clausser minnow and a black pattern. However, they were gorgeous, healthy and fat 16 to 18 inches. Afterwards, all we caught in large numbers were these gorilla fighter bluegills - one after the other no matter where we went. Kim, Scott and I caught between 12 to 16 each, maybe 20, (one loses count) and I caught 3 black crappie each a foot long. We were fooled over and over again thinking we had hooked up a huge bass but these spirited bluegill kept us guessing until the nose appeared.

Fred's fishing style rotating between fly rod and spinning outfit told us these bass were down and deep - difficult for us to reach with sinking lines. He caught lots of bass with the lure outfit getting down to 15 feet. I lost at least 3 of the 4 clausser minnows and 4 more of my 3" to 4" long leeches and other inventions. These bluegill were taking in all of the 3" flies with dumbbell eyes. I couldn't believe this. I kept going to larger and larger flies thinking I could size out the bluegill but they were fearless. I spoke with a spinner fisher whom I recognized and he told me he had lost six - 8 lures that day. Nobody got off easy.

My only complaint is with the rude bass fisherman - boating right in on top of us in

float tubes and casting over my shoulders with a reaper and yanking a bass out. There is no respect for the fact that float tubers don't cover territory as fast or far as they do with a boat. Over and over again they fished on top of me and to either side of where I might tube totally cancelling my bass catching potential. There was ONE EXCEPTION: two men in a boat - one rowed while the other fly fished and they gave me a wide berth. I thanked them!

This was an even more memorable year. One of us was helping Fred shake his \$8 lure from a tree top and lost the fly rod off the float tube and into the bottom of the lake. The rod owner shall remain nameless. While we were waiting for it to pop to the surface, we were talking about

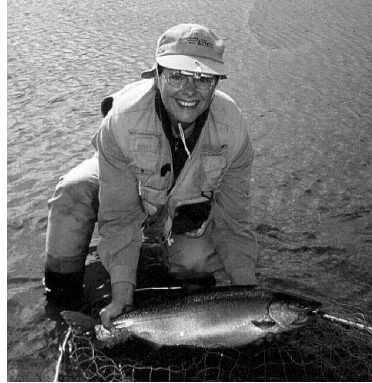
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## FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

As most club members know, this year's conservation focus has revolved around San Mateo Creek. Members of San Diego Fly Fishers have done creek site visits, met with people directly involved with the stream's protection, and attended numerous meetings of the Southern California Steelhead Coalition. After the meetings give way to actual hands-on restoration, we also have volunteered to be part of the process.



**SHERRY BRAINERD**

For those of you (members and vendors) who contributed generously to the annual raffle, **THANK YOU!** A significant portion of the proceeds will support the conservation budget. In the next few months, the board will be allocating funds to regional and local conservation efforts. As you know, without active conservation and education,

eventually we will have no sport. As our logo says, "Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing".

The good news is that we are not the only Southern California fly fishing club making progress on the conservation front. The Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers recently sent out a Conservation Memo listing many of the Council member's projects. San Diego Fly Fishers was recognized

for our involvement with San Mateo Creek steelhead restoration. For those of you that fish local waters to the north, I'll summarize the other active projects.

Pasadena Fly Fishers is working to maintain minimum flows in Deep Creek. Unfortunately, the stream is being

dewatered in the summer by Ski Summit Resort's water storage for winter snowmaking. Fly Fishers of Orange County is buying equipment to allow study of San Antonio Creek as a possible wild trout fishery designee, and to support raising wild and native Kern River rainbows. In addition, individual Southwest Council members are working on projects to extend recreational use to include float tubing at the Morris, San Gabriel and Cogswell dam reservoirs, to promote youth fishing with the LA Juvenile Court and Community Schools, to clean up Whittier Narrows, to support the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corp, and to assist California Department of Fish & Game with their fifteen year plan for wild trout.

As you can see, your local club and the Southwest Council have been busy working to protect and expand our fishing resources. For those of you who want to help in the future, give me a holler at the next meeting. And for those of you who already have been helping with time and/or money, **thank you!** 🍷

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### Lake Barrett Adventure

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floating reels. My Loop graphite floats. We all took note of any special markings on the tree for identification. The mistake we made was getting Fred's lure out of the tree - no marking left on the tree.



with rod leaning upright against the tree. The water was definitely more than 9 feet deep there but far from the normal 80 to

100 feet deep in that area. The diver's retrieval record was a stunning 33 out of 37 tours retrieving anything from cameras, wallets, fishing gear to drowning victims. Our applause goes

to these accomplished public servants.

A happy ending after all when the rod owner met the County's dive team out there and they performed a very valuable service to one happy flyfisher when they found the Loomis travel rod - reel down

**YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT ADVENTURE BARRETT HAS WAITING FOR YOU. EVERY YEAR THERE IS A NEW EXPERIENCE**

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### FISHING CONTEST

**NOTICE TO LEE ANDERSON:** Current leader in the Strouds/SDFF fishing contest. Watch out Lee. Kim Jones and Gretchen Yearous are posting notice that we are seriously hunting huge fish to catch to top that puny little 8 1/2 lb trout that you caught last February at Lake Poway. You assured us that you had witnesses and I admit, you showed me the picture. Kim and I plan to visit most of the lakes armed with poppers the size of rats, lots of black things that Ned Sewell caught his record bass with, a few books on bassin' and carpin', and lots of fishing time. I am just letting you know ahead of time so that while you are fishing in the Sierras or far away from home, you can wonder whether Kim or I caught the bigger one. **MAY THE BEST FLY WIN.** What fly caught your trout? Tootles! 🍷







**JACK BENTLEY**

**Any Questions?  
Call Jack Bentley at**

## **Plan Now for the San Juan River Trip October 15-20.**

Start making your plans now for this exciting annual trip to New Mexico's San Juan River in the Fall. Jack and Lynn Atnip ( ) are making all of the arrangements so you know you'll get the best trip for the best price! Put it on your calendar NOW!

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### **On the Big Wood River Near Ketchum**

by Timothy B Taylor

*I wrote the attached story and submitted it to the 21st annual mock-Hemingway contest. The rules state that one must try to write like Papa, and must mention the co-sponsor of the contest, Harry's Bar, in the story. The story is an outgrowth of my trip with my brother last summer to the Big Wood River near Ketchum, Idaho. Whereas "Nick" in Hemingway's early stories was clearly Ernest, the "Nick" in this story is really my brother Tom.*

*I did not win the contest.*

*I thought perhaps you could use the story in Finny Facts, which I very much enjoy receiving.*

*Cordially,  
Tim Taylor*

Nick pulled aside the low heavy branch of the quaking aspen tree and stepped from the path into the river bed. The water in the Big Wood was low that year, and as he left the cool forest Nick knew the fishing would be good. He knew the fish would be in the remaining deeper pools. He knew the fish would be waiting for food in the quiet areas just behind the riffled water. He knew the big fish would be near the banks and near logs and roots and rock overhangs. He knew the big trout, not often caught, would bite well that late summer afternoon.

Nick sat on a big boulder in the river bed. He unspooled leader and line from the reel and threaded it through the guides of the rod his grandfather had given him years before. The sky to the south was a deep blue, but to the north pink and orange and brown and gray from the fires burning fifty miles away. It was warm on the late summer river bed. A small high cloud blocked the bright sun for a moment. Nick drew his box of flies from his blue vest. The flies were neatly arranged in six rows in the small box. He considered a grass-

hopper pattern, for he had seen hoppers with yellow wings as he made his way across the meadow from the road to the trail. Yellow winged hoppers had flown away from his boots as he walked from the road through the dry meadow of high brown grass.

Nick chose a fly from the box and tied it on the leader. He moistened the knot with his spit before he drew it tight. Nick tested the knot and it held fast. He knew the light brown elk hair of the caddis would be easy for the big trout to see. Nick clipped off the barb of the small black hook. He rose and started downstream. His net tapped softly against his thigh as he made his way over the small boulders in the warm stream bed. Nick carried the rod lightly as he stepped over the small grey rocks.

As he walked, Nick thought of the writer who lay buried ten miles down the Big Wood in the quiet cemetery on the edge of the town. He thought of the grey stone slab with the writer's whole name, not the name he had used in life, beneath two twin fir trees. He thought of the black engraving

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## On the Big Wood

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ing on the grey stone slab, with the dates of the writer's life, and of the writer's fourth wife who lay nearby. He thought of the writer's home in the town and of the statue and inscription a few miles away that the writer's friends put up after the writer's life had ended. He thought of the view of the mountains from the quiet cemetery with the low chain-link fence. He thought of the writing the long dead writer had done in the town, the writing about other far places the writer had lived. Nick wondered why the writer had not written much about his life in the town or in the meadows and mountains and woods around it.

Nick paused at a spot where the low river turned against an old grey tree. At the base of the long dead tree where the roots once gave it life was a deep pool where the fast water ended. The deep pool was green where the warm sun hit it, and black where the shade of the big tree trunk let in no light. Nick knew a big trout lay in the shadow cast by the grey dead tree.

Nick took the light brown fly from the hook keeper at the base of his grandfather's rod. He stepped into the cool green water of the low river with the rod in his right hand. He held the small fly gently in his left hand as he slowly waded over the slippery green rocks of the low river, into the fast water across the stream from the dark quiet pool. Nick stopped when the cool water reached the backs of his knees. He began to cast, moving slowly with the warm sun in his face. He stripped line from the reel and let it float down on the surface of the Big Wood. He

was careful with his back casts and let the line loop gently in the soft breeze behind. When Nick felt he had enough line out, he cast into the fast water above the quiet dark pool where he knew the big trout lay waiting. The leader and fly fell soundlessly into the riffling water and floated slowly down toward the darker shadowed water. Nick flipped the heavier line to keep it upstream of the leader and let the light brown fly float out of the sunlit water and into the shade. With his left hand he pulled in slack and then, as the fly reached the end of the quiet pool and was about to continue downstream, Nick pointed the rod tip down and drew the line off the water. He back cast twice, his false casts slowly looping back and hissing in the quiet of the river.

Nick's second cast was closer to the grey log on the far side of the river, closer to the shaded green-black water.

Instantly the trout hit the fly. As Nick set the hook, he wondered if the fish was big. He saw a flash of silver and gold beneath the surface of the quiet pool, and felt the strong tug on the line. Nick kept the tip of the rod up as his grandfather had taught him to, and stepped gently toward the trout as he shifted the line in his left hand to his right forefinger and reeled in the line that lay at his feet on the surface of the Big Wood.

The fish leapt from the water, and Nick saw that he was big. The big trout twisted in the air, splashed and then jumped again, and Nick thought the big smart trout was

trying to free himself by catching Nick's line on the branch of a pine tree hanging over the far bank of the stream. Nick stepped slowly back and worked the caught trout into the fast water. He reeled in slowly, then stopped on the near bank and unhooked the net from its place at the side of his vest. The big fish still fought, and leapt again, lower this time. Nick was patient with him and he brought him slowly to the near side of the river.

Nick knelt with the rod held high in his right hand and the net in his left. He saw again that the fish was big, with a golden silver on his underside and pink and green on his back. Nick held out the net but the big trout darted away. Nick brought the line around again and this time netted the trout. Nick thought that the writer who was buried ten miles down the river in the green cemetery in the small town would have kept the fish in a brown wicker creel lined with wet grass. Nick laid the rod into the slow water at the side of the river. He wet his hands as his grandfather had taught him to, and gently lifted the trout from the net. He drew the surgeon's pliers from the place he kept them crimped on his blue vest, and slowly removed the small black hook from the trout's mouth. The fish was well hooked but there was no blood. Nick placed the big trout into the water, still holding him now with both hands. Nick eased the fish into the faster water, until the fish flicked its green tail and was gone. Nick rose from the spot where he had released the trout. "Better here," thought Nick, "than covered with almondine sauce on the menu at Harry's Bar and American Grill." 🍷

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## QUOTE

"There are many who love rivers, but do not hear their voices. Anglers have them always in their hearts and souls. It is for them that the river sings its sweet, melodious songs; for anglers, it is never silent.

As it moves from the mountains to the hills to the plains to the sea, a river sings. It is a siren song, falling softly on the ear and heard gently in the heart of those fortunate few who are attuned to hear it. These are the anglers and to them is given not only the ability to hear the voice of the river in their hearts, but knowledge of the tongues in which it speaks."

(Charles R. Brooks)





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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Swimming Damsel

Hook:	TMC 400T, size 10-8
Thread:	Olive 6/0 or 8/0
Eyes:	Black bead chain eyes or monofilament eyes
Tail:	Olive ostrich herl tips or marabou
Rib:	Fine gold or copper wire
Body:	Light olive antron dubbing or yarn
Wingcase:	Olive or gray swiss straw
Legs:	Olive grizzly hackle fibers or olive partridge fibers



1. Put a thread wrap around the hook shank. Tie on the eyes behind the hook eye.
2. Tie on the tail. Damsel nymphs do not have short tails. I like the tail to be a good two gaps long.
3. Tie on the ribbing just in front of the tail.
4. Dub the body up to the 1/3 point. Remember the damsel nymph has a long skinny body. Tie the body accordingly.
5. At the 1/3 point tie in the wingcase. Leave enough material to tie off the wingcase behind the eye and leave a short portion to layover the body behind the tie in pont. The wingcase is tied on the barb side of the hook. On the underside.
6. Dubb a thorax with same material as the body. Figure eight the thorax material over the eyes.
7. Pull the wingcase forward over the thorax and tie off just behind the hook eye. Trim the rear portion of the wingcase. It should be about one half the length of the forward portion of the wingcase.
8. Whip finish.

The unusual shape of the hook on this fly helps to imitate the action of the nymph as it swims through the water.

Tom Smith



**H**owdy friends and Sierra Drifters. Hope this update finds you all healthy and happy.

We have some changes to report this update for several areas. The weather continues to be seasonable with gusty westerly winds being the culprit of spoiling some fine fishing in many areas. This trend is expected to continue with periods of warm, calm weather later this week.

You will find very good conditions in most areas as far as run-off is concerned. The freestone creeks have all peaked and snowmelt is abating in these areas. Look for this to continue throughout the summer, with low water conditions expected for the fall season.

If you are planning a trip this week, bring some bug spray for the upper meadows and lakes. The bloodsuckers are out and hungry when the wind lays down. I suggest layered clothing on the light side. Crowds are light to moderate in most areas.

Crowley Lake: Fair-very good

The wind has spanked us this week several times and it has altered some fine fishing each blow. The fish are still spread out over several areas with McGee Bay being the most consistent. I will say the fish are fewer in number this year, but a notch up in size overall. The algae bloom is not a factor as of this report, but is beginning to accumulate in some areas when the winds are light. Weed beds are forming in the north arm of the lake and along the south shore into McGee Bay. Lets hope they make it until fall. The lake is dropping fast as the Lower Owens River has been bumped up to 550 cfs this week.

## SIERRA DRIFTERS



**TOM LOE**

We are finding fish in 8-10 feet of water and having the best results using chironomid imitations in #16-20. Olive and gray bodies are best. Good damsel fly activity is occurring around 10-12 a.m. each day the wind is down. #12-16 olive to light brown imitations will get some savage takes if you pull them fast and irregular with a light to moderate sink tip line.

Rex "Big Brown Roth" and his grandson Kyle Bond (61/2 years old) set out to land Kyle's first trout on the fly and did so on the first cast with this gorgeous brown that took a #18 chironomid pattern in McGee bay. This kid's a natural Rex!

Check out the daily double caught by Joel Congelliere and John Parlee from Newbury Park, Ca. There are a lot of sore trout lips due to the efforts put forth by these repeat Sierra Drifters this June. Who will win the trout king ring this season guys? You may view these pictures and others by visiting our website at, <http://sierradrifters.com> click on fish report please.

Lower Owens River: Poor

Flows are at 550 cfs. Fishing sucks this time of year at this rate. Stay posted.

Upper Owens River: Fair

The Long Years section of the river located above Benton Crossing is spotty with caddis nymphs and dries when the wind is not howling. Some fish are being taken on streamers being pulled along the undercuts. Fish above the confluence of

Hot Creek for best results. Planted fish below the campground will give you some fun if you are fortunate enough to be behind the hatchery truck. Bring skeeter juice in this area folks. These always bite!

East Walker River: Very good-should have been here before they raised the water...

Flows got bumped up to 170 cfs. Still very nice for this time of year, however when you raise the rates 50 cfs. rapidly, it will alter fishing for a day or so. Look for this trend to continue. Crowds have been moderate to heavy on weekends and Fridays.

Tug a perch fry imitation or a Tui Chub fake and fish the big pools and slow deep straights with a moderate sink tip. When water is rising this place fishes best with high visibility patterns. Some golden stone fly activity will occur each afternoon as well as small dark bodied caddis. Incorporate some crystal flash into each pattern and it will pay off.

Rush Creek: Good-very good

Had a great report from David Clemson and Chris Arns from Placentia, Ca., this week as they pulled ginger and olive streamers in # 8-10 with a moderate sinking tip line. These guys whacked the fish in the area above Grant Lake. Most of the fish are planters, but if you stick to the shadows and big pools there are some nice wild trout holding here. David and Chris then took a trip with us on Crowley Lake and schooled another 30 fish to 21". You guys rock!!!

Rock Creek Lake: Good

Fish the inlet area with Hornbergs or #10 Wooley Buggers in olive or natural. I have not fished this as of yet, however good results have been reported for those hitting this area when the wind is not a factor. Some good sized Alpers have been landed here also using a full to heavy sinking tip

**continued on next page**



line. This is a beautiful lake that is a pleasure to tube on. Crowds can be heavy here on the weekends.

Mammoth Lakes: Good

These areas are put and take with hatchery fish. There are some wild fish below the falls at Twin Lakes that can be fooled with attractor dries and Adams patterns when shadows are present. If you are close enough behind the hatchery truck, fishing can be very good. Show up after these opportunistic fish get extracted, it will be a slow day with some beautiful scenery as a backdrop. Lake Mamie is my favorite. The wind is a factor here with mornings the best. Heavy plantings of large and catchable Alpers trout are frosting on the cake in these areas. Almost any streamer pattern fished 10'-15' deep will get takes when these fish are present. Stick to the inlets and launch ramp areas for best results.

Hot Creek: Very good

Put this on your list of places to fish if you visit this week. Caddis anything is the bug here, with some stonefly action in the afternoon. Have some #16-22 dark bodied dries, and #16-20 bead head olives for your nymphs and emergers. The water is at a great level, high enough to keep you off the thick weeds, but not cloudy and overflowing the side bars. Crowds have been heavy to moderate as the word is out here. I suggest coming down in the afternoon. You will have some wind to contend with but more open area to cover. 6x fluorocarbon will help get takes here. Please try to avoid wading. If you must cross pick an area with sparse aquatic vegetation and low banks that are not undercut.

West Walker River: Fair

High water. Not real bad, but enough to alter fishing methods. It has cleared this week and appears to be dropping. Nymphing under an indicator with a San

Juan Worm and a bead head hares ear or caddis larva/rock worm nymph will get results. Make sure you are tickling the bottom with your rig so as to get down to the fish. This means utilizing enough weight.

San Joaquin: Good

The flows are high but fishable for this time of year. Use weighted nymph rigs in the faster water and peacock bodied dries #14-16 in the pools and slick runs. It is still cool here in the mornings so dress in layers. Wet wading is out for all but polar bears, use waders with felt soles and a belt. The rocks are slippery and the flows can get you in trouble at this level if you slip.

Guide tips:

I have been asked on several occasions what an attractor pattern is. The Laker girls have several I really enjoy inspecting. (Just kidding).

These are flies either wet (subsurface) or dry (surface) that do not resemble nor imitate any specific aquatic insect or baitfish. They have characteristics and images of several types of imitations rolled into one so to speak.

Most attractor patterns are brightly colored, larger than natural food sources and have a high visibility to both the angler and trout. Some examples of popular attractor patterns are as follows: Streamer attractor: Wooley Bugger. Matuka, Zonker  
Dry fly: Royal Coachman, Stimulator, Trude

There are many patterns that represent several types of aquatic life without being specific in size, shape, and color. These fall into the attractor category.

Presentation of your imitation is far more important than the actual exact duplicate of what is present in most cases. Attractors help us do this in many instances.

These flies constitute an important part in any fly fishers box and have purpose in many instances when trying to find the right bug.

Best fishes to all. Be the Fly...

Tom Loe, Sierra Drifters Guide Service

Email: [driftfish@qnet.com](mailto:driftfish@qnet.com)

<http://sierradrifters.com>

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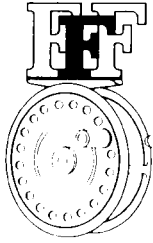
## FLY CASTING AT LAKE MURRAY

Let the fishing begin! The Sierra trout season has begun. Now would be a good time to learn to flycast or just improve your skills. Join the San Diego Fly Fishers every Sunday morning from 9 AM until noon.

(See map on back page for location).







## **From the FFF Clubwire News**

Submitted by Rick Jones of the Osprey Flyfishers of BC

### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

**W**hy do flyfishers join a club? A simple question but one that could elicit a number of different responses. When our club started thirty years ago, it was just a small group of anglers who wanted to come together to share their love of the sport of flyfishing. This group of dedicated individuals didn't really expect to get anymore out of the club than they were willing to put in. It was a tenuous group at best. Because of the size of the membership everybody was expected to do his or her bit. If they hadn't, then the club would never have survived. Sure there were members who did more than others but everybody was expected to be involved.

As the club grew in size, the mood and the need to be involved has gradually changed. Today it seems we have to beg people to get involved, to run for office, to write an article for the newsletter, to donate to the auction, to provide flies for the fly-off, and even to go fishing. "WHAT", did I say "to go fishing!" Well it almost seems like it. Did you know that we had a member for over fifteen years who never came to a club fish out?

I fully realize that people and their situations change. People get married, they have kids, they get divorced, they retire, and they die. Their involvement has also to change, as do their commitments,

however, if an individual continues to take and never gives back, then what was a strong bond becomes fragmented. People start to point fingers and say, "So and so never does anything!"

Most organizations can be split into three distinct groups.

**THE LEADERS:** These are the people who actually run the club. Sure these are the executive but also those people that seem to get involved in special committees and projects. You know the ones I'm talking about, the ones who volunteer to do a job or attend a meeting because nobody else wants too. These are the real unsung heroes that keep our club strong.

**ACTIVE MEMBERS:** An active member is usually somebody who was once in the leader group but has now dropped to a more sedate role. They attend most functions and participate in committees and projects when needed.

**DRONES:** (A drone is a bee that is looked after by all the other bees in the hive. He has one job and that is to mate with the queen bee. He is fed and totally looked after until things get tough and then he is literally chucked out on his ear.) Because we don't have a queen bee we don't really need drones, however we do have a few in our club. Are you a drone?

It's easy to determine what group you fall into, just ask yourself: When was the last time I was on a club committee or on the executive? When was the last time I submitted flies to the fly-off? When was the last time I contributed to or bought something at the auction? How many meetings have I missed without a legitimate excuse?

If each member brought 3 flies to the meeting just twice during the year during our "fly-offs", we would have 27 flies each meeting.

With four people each year on the executive committees, you would only have to hold office once every ten years.

If every member submitted two articles to the newsletter each year, there would be eight articles per month (and a very happy editor!)

These comments are just some rambling thoughts from one of the "old boys", somebody who has watched our club grow and change and grow and change, some of it not for the better. 🍷

*Does this sound familiar? Well **GET ACTIVE**, do something for your Club.*





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Cutoff date for *July FINNY FACTS* articles--  
--Friday July 13th

Send articles to:  
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San Diego, CA 92117  
858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at

Thanks!!

Send change of address information or  
Club membership renewal to:

Helen Grundler

### LIFE MEMBERS

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

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler, Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

Winners of the:

### GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the fly fishing community

1991-Ned Sewell  
1992-Bob Camp  
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud  
1994-Ed Velton  
1995-Bob Wisner  
1996-Gary Hilbers  
1997-Jack Bentley  
1998-Gordie Zimm  
1999-Gretchen Yearous  
2000-Tom Smith



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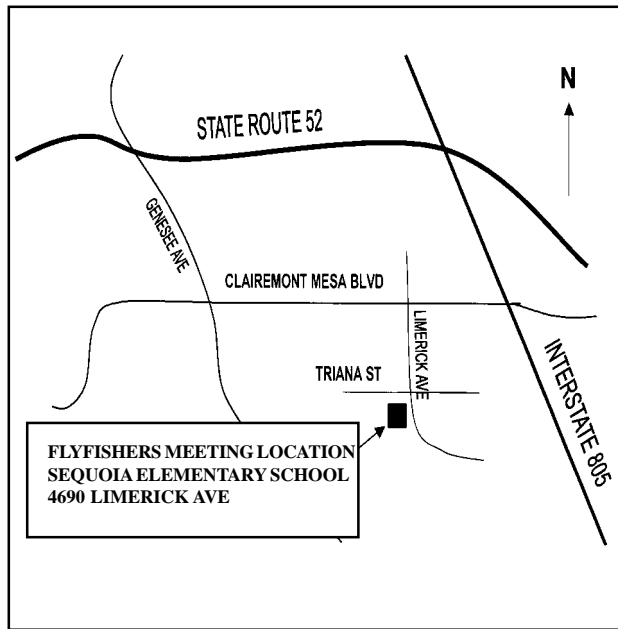
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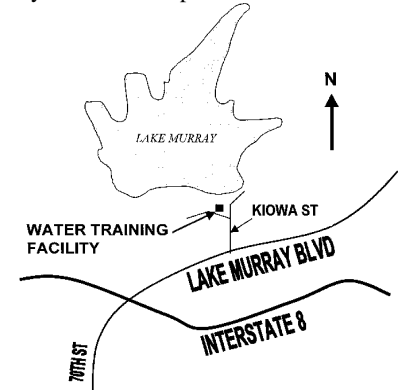
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**FREE CASTING LESSONS  
EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON**

Join us 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 Blvd. Go north on Lake Murray Blvd. to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.



Meeting Place for Workshops

SD Water Training Facility. Just before entering Lake Murray, turn left off Kiowa and go through 1st gate to 2nd gate. Turn right before 2nd gate.

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