

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

NOVEMBER 2011

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 16, No. 11

November Meeting

California Heritage Trout Challenge

S^{DFF}
members
Bruce
Michael



and **Bruce Bechard** for the November "Members Present" club meeting will talk about the Heritage Trout Challenge. They will explain what is the Heritage Trout Challenge, how to identify the eleven heritage trout, where the historic waters of the heritage trout are, where the heritage

continued on page 8

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, November 7, 2011
7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Avenue
(See map on back page)

REMINDER

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

Dan McKirnan and
Jim Richardson

Thank You, Mona Morebello

Heenan Lake 2011 – "All about Bob"

A Fish Tale by Lucky Ketcham

September 22, 23, 24 2011--You know if it takes me a month to write a fishing story, there is some good reason for the delay. It usually means I fished for two days and did not catch a fish or else the fishing was like the movie titled "All about Bob."

This year, our after Labor Day trip to the Lahontan Cutthroat Hatchery Lake was a little disappointing. My story fits both of my criteria for not writing fish tales. Bob Pharoah managed to have five bites in two days and landed two nicely colored cutthroat trout.

The first day he caught the 22 inch fish within 15 minutes on the water – he was only 20 feet from where I had been fishing for an hour. Thirteen hard hours of fishing later, he caught the second 21 inch trout. We worked very hard for those two fish. The dates on his photos must be off a day, as Heenan Lake is only open



on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We fished Friday, September 23 and Saturday the 24th and drove home on Sunday without wetting a line.

I shouldn't complain too much. The weather and the day on the water could not have been nicer or more scenic. We had bright blue skies, little or no wind, crystal clear water with no algal blooms and high mountains with Aspen groves that were just showing a tinge of yellow from the early frost. By all rights I should have enjoyed the day on the water more. It was just knowing those big trout were down

continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: NOVEMBER 2011

“Some go to church and think about fishing, others go fishing and think about God.”
(Tony Blake)

for

“There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind.”
(Washington Irving)

November all ready, where has the year gone? In two months we will be beginning a new year and planning next year's fishing trips. I hope that this year's fishing has been as good or better than mine. I have had a great year of fishing and hope to get some more good fishing in before the year ends. On November 26 we will all have an opportunity to go fishing together at our last Day at the Bay outing for 2011. Plan to meet at Tidelands Park at 6:00 for a morning of fishing followed by Brunch.

For those of you who want to brush up on your casting skills the Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is offering a FFF Certified Instructor Seminar on December 10th at La Colonia Park, 715 Valley Avenue,



ART REIFMAN

Solana Beach, CA 92075. Time is 10 to Noon. This is free to members of the SDFF and GSFC. See the announcement in this Finny Facts.

It is time to go through the garage and get out all the fly fishing gear that you no longer use. The club is having a Fly Fishing Gear Swap at our December meeting on December 5th. The December meeting will be a Fly Tying Demonstration and Swap Meeting. The rules are simple, only members in good standing can sell items. Sale items are limited to your own fly fishing gear and items you make yourself. No resale allowed. So you can sell that fly rod or reel you no longer use, that good fly line that you switched out and sits in the drawer, and all those extra flies that you made and are not going to use. Bring it to

the December meeting and let's swap.

With the new year coming soon we have elected a new board of directors for 2012. I want to acknowledge those who stepped up to serve in 2012. Our new President will be **Lee McElravy**, new VP will be **Larry Sorensen**, continuing as Secretary will be **Bob Stafford**, and continuing as Treasure will be **Bruce Harris**. Our other board of directors are **Hiedi Brown, Paul Costa, Don Davis, Jon Hee, Jon Holland, Gary Strawn, Jim Tenuto, Alan Thompson, Lew Walsh, and Paul Woolery**. I will be continuing on the board and coordinating our annual raffle and silent auction.

One last note, there are a lot of issues out there that affect us as fly fishermen. One is the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) that may close much of the state's best coastal waters to sport fishing. Check www.KeepAmericaFishing.org for information on how to get involved and keep informed.

Keep fishing,
Art Reifman
President, SDFF

“The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning; no matter how long we have been at it, we are constantly making some fresh discovery, picking up some new wrinkle. If we become conceited through great success, some day the trout will take us down a peg.” Theodore Gordon, 1907.



Graduates of Bob Berry's woodcarving class proudly hold their carved trout.



All About Bob

continued from page 1

there and suffering from “lock jaw” that bothered me. Poor things must have been starving to avoid eating my perfectly placed Prince Nymphs, Scuds and woolly buggers. I’ve fished Heenan Lake in driving snow storms, sleet and rain in past years. This was a piece of cake. If you are on the water for 13 hours with only one bite, is it really fishing?

We have learned that bright blue skies are not a good thing on a lake where scuds are the main food supply. Those little amphipods are like cockroaches and hate the bright sun. They hide deep in the forest of weeds that encircle Heenan Lake and are not available to the trout. The cutthroat trout just seem to shut down and stop eating. You would think they would search for alternate food supplies like damsel flies, dragon flies and mayflies. That does not seem to be the case – at least in the mid-day sun.

Fishing is always better early and late on Heenan Lake. That fact keeps us on the water until 6:15 PM. The lake closes at 7:00 PM and the gate is locked. We often have to scramble to get our pontoon boats out on time. Since the long dirt road is locked overnight we determined it is safe enough to leave our pontoon boats, motors, batteries, fins, etc on the shoreline overnight.

Bob looks forward to trips to Heenan Lake every year; even though we seem to be skunked half the days we spend on the water. It only takes a few 22 inch fish to



make you forget the slow days. We look forward to seeing some of our friends from Deep Creek Anglers up from Big Bear/Riverside. They have a friendly group of 10 or 12 anglers that visit the lake several times in September and October. They rent cabins at the Carson Creek Resort where we normally camp. We like talking to the ranger, Heenan regulars and the manager at Carson Creek just down the hill. It is a different experience to catch big Lahontan Cutthroat Trout on a fly rod. We dream of the stories we hear of great days on the lake, when fish are taken on almost any cast or of the elusive 28 inch fish. We have never experienced that. My first year on the lake I caught two 21-inch fish at 6:00 PM and I was hooked. At the time, they were the largest trout I had landed on a fly rod. I was stoked!

We are not early risers and never get to the lake before 9 or 10 AM. By that time, many of the Heenan Lake regulars were already leaving the lake. Some caught one or two fish and some just determined the fish were not biting so they left to fish Carson Creek or Silver Creek. Both creeks were heavily stocked for Labor Day weekend and were reporting “epic fishing” in Septem-

ber. The photo board and album at the resort documented all the 5 pound fish stocked in the creek. Anglers were reporting 25 to 40 fish from the big pools in the campground while I was catching zip on the lake. No wonder smart people were leaving the lake at 10 AM. I fished with a full sinking line and stripped big Purple Prince Nymphs along the bottom of every spot I ever caught a fish or saw a fish caught. Bob used his electric motor to zoom around the complete lake and stopped when the fish finder would find a few fish. He had at least two rods rigged with purple wooly buggers, prince nymphs and scuds. I did not mess around with motors and fish finders and fished with one rod and one fly at a time. It was probably my downfall for not offering them enough of a choice.

Bob even brought a spin rod and the gold and red Jake’s lures that do so well for him on the Yellowstone Lake Cutthroats. Almost nothing worked on these days. I had one bite in two days. A purple woolly bugger hooked one fish while I was talking on the two way radio. It was on long enough to swim up from 19 feet and make a big circle splash on the surface. It just wanted to tease me and show me what a big 21 inch fish looked like. By the time I put the radio down to firmly set the hook it was gone.

Heenan always fishes better later in October when the snows move in and the fish remember to eat.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Western Coachman

Hook: Daiichi 1560 #6-18
Thread: Black Fly Master 6/0
Tail: Golden Pheasant Tippet
Rib: Originally tied with gold wire, but here copper wire
Body: Peacock herl
Hackle: Originally poor quality dry fly in coachman brown, but here hen furnace
Wing: Natural white hair from the flank of a white tail deer



This is perhaps the most famous fly that Wayne 'Buz' Buszek developed. It is still incredibly popular, particularly in the Western United States, and regrettably seemingly little known elsewhere. I have hooked a huge variety of fish in both salt, warm, and cold water. My personal best in one day was 6 species. There

is a dry version with hackle applied after application of the wing, somewhat "Trude" fashion, but most simply dress the wing if they wish the fly to float. Wet or dry, it is a superb fishing tool. What food form it represents is anyone's guess.

Dale Lunt sent the photos and recipe from Fly Anglers on Line.

Norb Spitzer sent me this website with step by step photo instructions:
http://www.nsfa-adventures.com/STEP_BY_STEP_FLIES_COACHMAN.htm

Steve Piper chimed with glowing reports of success with the Coachman on the Yellowstone River near Gardiner, MT this summer. The Parks Fly Shop has some great videos of a Trude Style Coachman Cripple.
<http://www.youtube.com/user/ParksFlyShop/#p/u/8/a8BhwSoTWIQ>

FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.



Royal Coachman Dry Fly



Standard Dry,



Parachute



Trude Wing Style

- Hook:** Light wire dry fly hook size 8 to 14, TMC 100
Thread: 8/0 or 6/0 black flat waxed nylon
Tail: Golden pheasant tippets
Body: Peacock herl with red floss or silk in the center.
Wing: White or light grey hackle tips, or they can be white poly yarn or white calf tail
Hackle: Coachman Brown neck or saddle hackle. (Coachman brown is a little darker than standard red/brown neck hackle)
Head: Black thread

The Royal Coachman fly patterns are good attractor and searching patterns. The San Diego anglers have had good luck with them on many waters in the high Sierras. They are especially good for the small streams like Horseshoe Meadows for Golden Trout.

Paul Woolery and Gary Hilbers caught many little brook trout in the streams running out of Lake Virginia.

It is a classic dry fly pattern that everyone should learn to tie. Change the color of the silk to Lime Green and you get the Royal Lime Trude Dry. (Orange, Yellow and Pink are all good colors on this pattern.)

The Royal Wulff is a good variation for fast water. The tail and hair wing float better than golden pheasant and duck quill wings.

This photo also teaches the proportions of the tail, wing and hackle to keep the big dry fly from standing on its head. Proportions are important for dry flies. Use the hook gap and shank length for your guidelines.

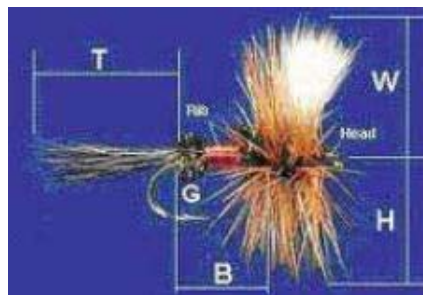
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY8Xr21D_uI&feature=related

The title of this video is for Royal Wulff but it actually is a good video for the Royal Trude. I try to match the size of the active caddisflies when I am choosing which size of Royal Coachman to use.

Most of mine are small for the Sierras, sizes 12 to 16. Save the big ones for Labrador and BC.

The Royal Wulff is a hair or poly yarn wing and deer hair tail version for fast water.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7dRrurLVBs>

Video of the Parachute version
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO9V1FOGpbY>



Members Fishing Reports

September, 2011—SW Montana's "Blue Ribbon" Streams

Fly fishing "field trips" in September is very sweet for retired teachers! We spent three weeks on Montana's great rivers and spring creeks.

Floated the Madison....very windy but we both caught some nice fish on streamers. Sam caught a beauty on Hebgen Lake on a Brown Leach. Out of Dillon, we fished the private spring creeks at McCoy Ranch...very tough due to hot weather, warmer water and smart trout. It was the end of the season and they seem to know every hopper in our box. We spent several days in Twin Bridges and had a chance to float the Beaverhead. Wow, what a bonanza fishing day (30+) fish...mostly browns and a few rainbows using the "chuck-and-duck" method with weight on the bottom, two midges and an indicator.

We spent a much anticipated 4 days at Big Trout Ranch but were somewhat disappointed with fishing on the property as the spring creeks and ponds were much too warm. The ranch has lots of wildlife and very gracious hosts. The best part was that we were close to the Ruby and Big Hole where we did very well. One of the trip highlights was a tour of the Winston Rod Factory in Twin Bridges. Great museum and tour (free) It helps you understand the cost of their rods when you see the labor, materials and quality control the CEO demands.

Feel free to contact us regarding guides, costs and lodging if you are planning to fish Montana.

Sam & Mona Morebello



Trinity River California, October 2, 2011—When I go Steelhead fishing I use a Spey rod and swing traditional flies. These flies include Silver Hilton, Purple Perils, and the one that caught that fish was called an Undertaker. When the water temperatures are above 55 degrees I skate Muddler Minnows as well.

Both of these techniques consist of casting the flies down and across stream letting the flies "swing" across. When skating, the flies will make a wake on the surface which can make for some exciting grabs.

However with all that said, we use drift boats and indicators. This technique will produce numbers. For me it's more of the enjoyment of casting a Spey rod and searching for those couple super aggressive fish. (John caught this fish the last week in September, 2011.LK)

John Fochetti
Fochetti Guide Service



Jerry Barstow with one of 12 Corvina he and a friend caught in the South SD Bay last week. They were fishing the morning tide in the area below the Seal training facility and across from the Silver Strand. Jerry reports the bite was wide open for those fang toothed Corvina up to 3 pounds. His catch included spotted bay bass and a small halibut.



Silver Hilton



Muddler Minnow



Undertaker





LIMITED OFFER...FIRST 7 PEOPLE TO SIGN-UP WIN!

...an opportunity to serve SDFF as a meeting host in 2012.

New members (especially) this is a terrific job. You only have to work 47 minutes **ONE TIME** , wow! This job requires that you come a few minutes early to help set-up chairs, nametags and audio-visual equipment and stay after a few minutes to help put things away.

Thanks to the 19 people who signed-up at the October meeting but we still need 7 more volunteers so bring your calendars to the November meeting. No need to know what you will be doing in 2012. The sign-ups will be published in the January *Finny Facts* together with directions on how to set-up and break-down. If you cannot attend your scheduled meeting, call and trade with other hosts.

Isn't it time that **EVERYONE** give something back to SDFF in return for the wonderful benefits of club membership? (field trips, prizes, classes, clinics, speakers, newsletters, conservation opportunities)

We need 2 volunteers to host the December, 2012 meeting and 5 on call substitutes.

EVERYONE HAS 47 minutes in one calendar year!

Sign-up at the November 7th meeting or contact Mona by phone or e-mail as soon as possible so I can publish the full schedule.

Thanks...Mona Morebello



FFF (SWC) CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR SEMINAR IN SAN DIEGO

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Have you ever wanted to take your casting and teaching skills up to the next level? Tim Lawson will explain the process and preparation required for the Federation of Flyfishers CI (Certified Instructor) and MCI (Master Certified Instructor) tests. Tim has been a Certified Instructor since 2006 and a Master since 2009. The session will include a thorough examination of the CI test materials along with practical demonstrations of what is expected from the examiners. You will discover that becoming a good instructor is a step beyond learning to cast well. Tim will discuss communication and learning techniques and share some of the tricks he has learned to help students make breakthroughs with their casting. This is an important class for anyone who is considering becoming an FFF certified instructor. Tim will be joined by another certified instructor who will be on hand to demonstrate casts and give tips to anyone who wants to improve their casting.

PLACE: La Colonia Park
715 Valley Avenue
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Exit I-5 west on Via de la Valle. Right at first stop light on Valley Ave. Bear right at stop light staying on Valley Ave. Park and community center buildings and parking lot are on left about 0.3 miles from stop light.

TIME: 10 – noon. Should there be interest, there will be some outside casting afterwards.
CONTACT: Steve Piper

Michael Schweit

California Heritage Trout continued from page 1

trout can be found today, and finally their journey to catch the eleven Heritage Trout.



California Heritage Trout Challenge



The Resources Agency

California Department of Fish and Game
1416 North Street
Sacramento, California 95814



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



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.

Cutoff date for **December FINNY FACTS** articles---Friday November 18th.

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

You can E-mail at Thanks!!

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

Paul Woolery

LIFE MEMBERS

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

HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood, Mike Rivkin, Bill Van Wulven, Larry Bottroff, Aubrey Wendling

Recipients of the:

GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service
to the flyfishing community

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



SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS 2011 OFFICERS

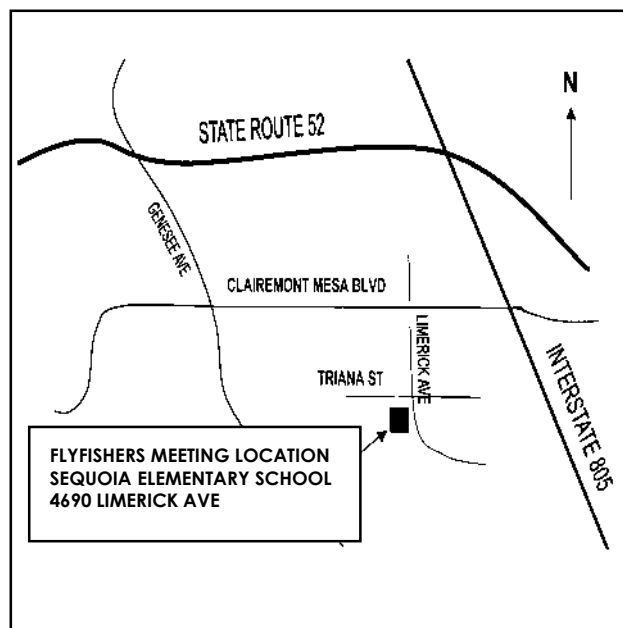
President- Art Reifman
1st VP- Don Davis
2nd VP- Bob Pharoah
Treasurer- Bruce Harris
Secretary- Bob Stafford

DIRECTORS

Heidi Brown
 Gary Farrar
 Jonathan Hee
 Jon Holland
 Lucky Ketcham
 Lee McElravy
 Larry Sorensen
 Gary Strawn
 Alan Thompson
 Paul Woolery

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Conservation-
 Gary Strawn
FFF Southwest Council-
 Don Davis
Fly Casting Clinic-
 Ned Sewell
Fly Tying Clinic-
 Lucky Ketcham
 Bill Hanson
Membership-
 Paul Woolery



Local Outings-
 Larry Sorensen
Newsletter-
 Rose & Roger Yamasaki
E-mail:

Programs-
 Gary Farrar
Raffles-
 Alan Thompson
 Jim Tenuto (annual)

Refreshments-
 Maria Goldman
Rod Building-
 Jack Duncan
Travel-
 David Collins
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.



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**San Diego
Fly Fishers**

*Official Chapter of
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