

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

FEBRUARY 2004

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 9, No. 2

February Speaker

Big Fish in Wyoming at the North Platte Lodge

Our guest speaker this month will be **Bret Van Rensselear**, owner of the North Platte Lodge, Alcova, Wyoming. If you haven't experienced this fishery, this is a meeting you will not want to miss. Bret's lodge and the fishing on this stretch of river were on Mike Fong's short list of best bets for huge, trophy rainbows, and plenty of them. Recently George Gates visited Bret at his lodge and sampled the fishing there, caught and released more LARGE trout than he could count, and even had the photos to prove it! So, if giant fish, private access, no crowds, and trophy trout water sound good to you, don't miss this presentation.

REMINDER

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

**Jay Dunkeman and
Don Davis**

Thank you, Mona Morebello

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

February 21st

By Gary Hilbers

Once again the Kids Fishing Derby will be held at Chollas Lake. This year's event, sponsored by the Police Athletic League and coordinated by our own Joe Baines, will be held on Feb. 21st. The Derby is opened to all children ages 15 and under. **We are in need of volunteers to help run this worthwhile event.** We need people to help kids bait hooks, untangle lines, learn how to cast, clean fish, etc. Basically just help kids fish. We are expecting over 500 kids this year, so we can use all the help we can get. We would also like to have some tiers demonstrate their skills at a tying table. And we could use some help the day before the event, Feb. 20th, putting rods and reels together. If you would like to help on either or both days, please contact me, Gary Hilbers, at



FLY PLATES

by Gary Hilbers

From time to time people have expressed an interest in learning to make fly plates like the ones the club gives out in appreciation for the contributions some of our members make. If you would like to learn how this is done (and it is not difficult,) I will be holding a class on making fly plates on Thursday, Feb. 12th at 6:30 PM. This will be instead of our usual fly tying congress. It will be held at the San Carlos Recreation Center and all are welcome. The materials to make one of these plates run about \$10-\$15. If you are interested call me at or email at and I will let you know what you need.

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, February 2nd, 2004
7:30 PM
Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Ave.
(See map on back page)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: FEBRUARY 2004

It's another new year arriving much quicker than anticipated, 2004 has arrived. I arrived at Sequoia School at what I thought was an early time, about 6:30, on the 5th of January, my first meeting as your new President. I was greeted by a dark Sequoia School; compete with several dozen loyal members milling about in the

parking lot. The school was closed, as in; we could not get inside for our meeting. Someone at the school district had forgotten to tell the custodian about our meeting. Sequoia is a year round school and was out of session. This did not look like a good beginning for a new year.

But experienced hands were in attendance in form of **Gordie and Luie Zimm and Sam and Mona Morebello**. They managed, via cell phone and with perseverance, to find the school principal, who found the custodian who lives out in La Mesa. Good that all the right people where home that night.

He arrived about 7:30 to open the school. What followed was the quickest set-up on record. About 100 people quickly set-up the room and we were ready to go.

I can't imagine another group of people who would patiently, no make that cheerfully, stand around a cold dark parking lot for over an hour waiting for the magic moment to occur. It must have something to do with our fly fishing training, standing in very cold water for hours on end



GEORGE GATES

waiting for the magic monument we all seek, the "Strike".

Thanks to everyone for their patience during a difficult start of a new year for SDFE.

I must say it was worth the wait in the cold

parking lot. Gary Graham was truly outstanding with this "Baja on the Fly" program.

Gary's program contained truly interactive video showing us numerous how-to techniques in slow motion video. His program was both entertaining and educational. He set a great standard for all of our programs. "Don't just show us pictures of great fish, show us how to be better fly fishers"

Gary operates in about 7 different locations from San Diego on the north to Guatemala in the south. He is truly a pioneer for our sport.

Next month our program will be from the North Platte Lodge in Wyoming and outstanding destination lodge for both fly fishing and bird shooting.

On the volunteer front, we have found a replacement for Buck Parker as Video/DVD librarian. We actually had

two volunteers. Thanks.

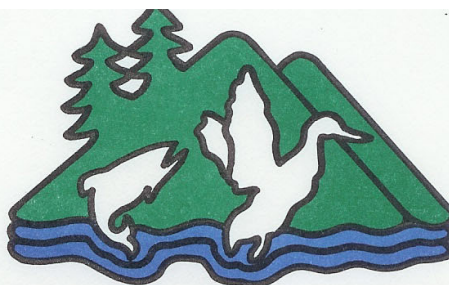
Joe Bain briefly spoke about his Chollas Lake kids project at the last meeting. It is every Sunday. They will also be having a large event for kids in late February and Joe would appreciate some additional volunteers. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to fishing who would otherwise never have the experience. It could also help them from going down the wrong path of life. Please keep this opportunity in mind.

Dick Mount has agreed to take on the week-end trips program. If you like to fish, make new friends, explore new fishing areas and do some light traveling then you might want to get involved in the clubs weekend trips program. The trips can be as short as a few hours of surf fishing to as long as a few days in the Sierra. I am sure Dick will do a great job and will be well supported by our club.

We received a thank you letter from Hugh Marks for the clubs financial support of his staff members who lost their homes during the Cedar fire. It is great to be part of such public spirited group. A copy of his letter is on the next page.

See you at the February meeting.





Lake Cuyamaca RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

December 29, 2003

San Diego Fly Fishers
Warren Lew, President
1457 Morena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92110

Dear Warren and the San Diego Fly Fishers:

Thank you so much for your donation of ten \$50 Walmart gift cards and nine \$50 Target gift cards to help Cuyamaca recover from the Cedar Fire. Again, you are very kind to think of us. Your generosity is truly overwhelming.

As you know, we are still finding challenges in these months following the Cedar fire, both as a business at the Lake and as a community. We are so humbled by the kindness of our friends. We are as thankful for your kind words and thoughts as by your generous donations. We look forward to seeing you come fish at the Lake again so we can extend our thanks in person.

In appreciation of your donation we would like to extend to you a 20% discount on fishing and boating at Lake Cuyamaca. Just let us know when you come to the Lake.

Sincerely,

Hugh Marx
General Manager

15027 HIGHWAY 79 • JULIAN, CALIFORNIA 92036 • (619) 447-8123 • (760) 765-0515

FAX (760) 765-1749
website: www.lakecuyamaca.org

TOLL FREE (877) 581-9904
email: hugh@lakecuyamaca.org





JACK BENTLEY

**Any Questions?
Call Jack Bentley at**

Now Taking Reservations for the Green River Trip

Sign up now for the Green River, Utah trip for the period May 10 - 15, 2004. It's our most popular group trip of the year. Hatching cicadas, constant water level, and beautiful scenery are all part of this trip. Call Jack for details and signups.

Lees Ferry is fishing well in small groups. Call Jack to set up your own individual tour group.

Tying One On

Mike Huffman

Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers

When I hear the term purist, the hackles rise on the nape of my neck. When I hear an individual apply the term to himself, I dive out of laughing distance and look for the least harmful direction to vomit. Purity, even as a concept, is heavily suspect at least in the latter part of this century. After all, even the driven snow has some hereditary acid rain content. So at best we are dealing with a relative issue and not an absolute. I won't use commercially raised worms. I won't throw a plug with more than six treble hooks. I wouldn't touch a spinning rod. I don't tie with any of those synthetics (except maybe nylon thread, mylar tinsel, and a few non-bone fish hooks). I only fish dry flies upstream. and only at certain times. Are we to suppose that the purist of the pure simply false cast, waiting for a trout to leap free of the water and snatch their virgin

undampened offering out of the air. Why not? Hell, that would go a long way toward explaining those days we got skunked.

Secretly, I believe self-proclaimed "purists" are retreating from some preexisting state of being they're embarrassed about. In their sleep they're tortured by visions of finding themselves naked, on opening morning, ankle deep in the most popular corn hole on the river with a tangled spin cast outfit in their hands, and without their pipe or even their Latin Thesaurus. An angry mob is closing in around them, including all the classmates they snatched on in school, threatening to pummel them senseless and leave the carcass for the crawdads and bluegill to pick clean.

The whole condition would be pretty humorous if it wasn't for the fact some newcomers to the sport are actually put off by such buffoons. I found myself amongst a few last year on the fly fishing only stretch of a Connecti-

cut river. As luck would have it, I caught and released a couple of nice browns. When I arrived at the car, I was approached by two of these will appointed and expensively outfitted fellows. Recalling that I hadn't seen them catch any fish, I casually laid my vest over the keeper ring of my rod, and braced myself for some interrogation. Well, after engaging in some talk about the cost of their equipment, how the Fish and Game Department hadn't been stocking enough, in relation to the income and import of the "average" angler in these waters, they showed nymphs, and other assorted and quite trendy offerings. Then they dropped the question. What was I using? When I produced the somewhat mangled #6 bright purple woolly booger there was a spastic moment of silence, and a slight shifting of weight to their rear leg, as if it was Kryptonite or something. They just didn't quite know how to handle it. I could have only guessed what they were mumbling to each other as they ambled away, but I had the giggles all the way home.



FLY OF THE MONTH

THE FLESH FLY

Hook: Any Nymph or Salmon hook size 2 or 4
Thread: Pink 3/0, 6/0 or 8/0 (I would use 6/0)
Body: White or tan CROSSCUT Rabbit Strips
Hackle: Pink Marabou

1. Weight the hook with medium lead wire. 12 to 15 wraps. Cover the lead weight wraps with thread and then cover with head cement
2. Tie a strip of crosscut rabbit fur on at the bend of the hook. Allow about $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the strip to hang back over the bend forming a short tail. Using crosscut rabbit strips will make a better looking fly and will make the tying process easier. Wrap the rabbit strip around the hook shank forward from the bend to just behind the eye. Each wrap should lay next to the previous wrap. Do not overlap.
3. Tie a small bunch of pink marabou to the top of the hook and another to the bottom just behind the eye. Force some of the marabou to roll onto the sides of the fly. Clip the excess marabou.
4. Complete forming the thread head. Whip finish and apply head cement to the head.



Easy tie and an effective fly if your fishing in Alaska!

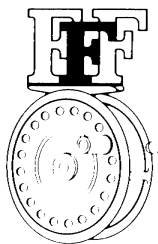
This is an excellent pattern for Alaska Rainbow trout. It represents the flesh from the dead salmon. If your planning a trip to Alaska you will want to take some of these. I think Jack Bentley told me that!

When gathering the materials you will want to buy some white and some tan "CROSSCUT" rabbit strips. A mixture of white and tan would also work. The regular rabbit strips don't do nearly as well. Crosscut strips cost the same as the regular strips.

Keep Smiling and good Tying.

Tom Smith





From the FFF Clubwire News

By James Castwell Feb. 2000 www.flyangleronline.com

Negative Drift

From the very first time we go fishing there seems to be one way to get the bait out to the fish. Swing the rod behind us and swing it forward. With that starts one of the hardest habits to break for us fly-casters. With a casting rod or spinning rod it's always the same move. If the lure is light, a sharp snap of the wrist back and forward gets the job done. Using a heavy lure, more of a lob to the rear and a lob/swing to the front and out it goes. The action is immediate, there is no reason for any pause while the lure goes back. That's the way you learned to fish and cast. Another factor enters too. The faster you get the lure out in front, the sooner you can catch a fish. I think that drive is there for all of us, not dependant upon how you learned to cast. Both of these drives are a detriment to fly-casting and here's why. By now you know you must wait for the fly line to unroll behind you before you can make a decent forward cast, period. If you are not that far into casting, you need to go back and read some of the earlier columns on here. With that said, let me point out the major flaw in most casting. Chances are, you, yes, you do

it. The good news is, you can stop it. Why should you stop doing it and change? How about making your casting much less work and casting ten to twenty percent farther? I have written before that it is hard to spot a casting problem without having a name for it. Let's do it now. It is called drift, actually 'negative drift.' When you have made the back cast and are pausing while the fly line unrolls behind you, you start to 'ease' the rod forward as you are waiting. You may creep it to almost vertical, nearly straight up. That's negative drift. Moving the rod forward too soon during the cast. It only allows you the tip to use for the forward cast. Had you kept the rod exactly where you had stopped it on the back cast, you would have had far more of it to use for the forward cast. The lower section would have been brought into play to load and unload. This is probably the most common casting fault. Watch those on T.V. The next time you are on a stream, look around, especially at those who may be having a problem with any distance. It is rare to find anyone who is really doing a dead-lock on the back cast. When

instructing, we call it Lock & Load. By freezing the rod at the back stop you allow it bend and unbend on the forward cast. Try it the next chance you have. I do see it sometimes, but usually only on the very top casters. The negative drift is not as much of a factor for those of you who only cast very short distances, often with light rods and tiny flies. That type of cast is often just a flick of the wrist and hardly any time is needed for the line to go back and return. Often the rod is stopped high and the cast is directed close in front of you. Even while fishing this way it can become a matter of needing a longer cast to a rising fish. The back cast is lowered, the front cast is aimed and stopped higher and the old 'negative drift' comes into play once more. It is no respecter of rod weights or line sizes. Remember, your back-cast is a forward cast; only you are facing the wrong way. I doubt if you would make a forward cast and as the line is rolling out, pull back on the rod. Quit doing the same thing on your back-cast. Fly-casting for you will become less work, more fun, give you greater distance when needed, but be aware, you may be mistaken for a 'Pro.'



**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.

STROUD TACKLE

Complete Fly Shop



● **Cortland**

- **Loomis**
- **St. Croix**
- **Orvis**
- **Hardy**
- **Sage**
- **Redington**
- **Fly Tying Materials**

San Diego Fly Fishers Headquarters



1457 Morena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 276-4822
www.stroudtackle.com
Proprietors
Eileen & Bill Stroud

**Cutoff date for *March FINNY FACTS*
articles---Friday February 13th**

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
5415 Lodi Place
San Diego, CA 92117
858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at Thanks!!

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

Gordie Zimm

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 (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

Winners of the:

GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service
to the flyfishing 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
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
2002-Larry Sorensen
2003-Jim Tenuto



SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS 2004 OFFICERS

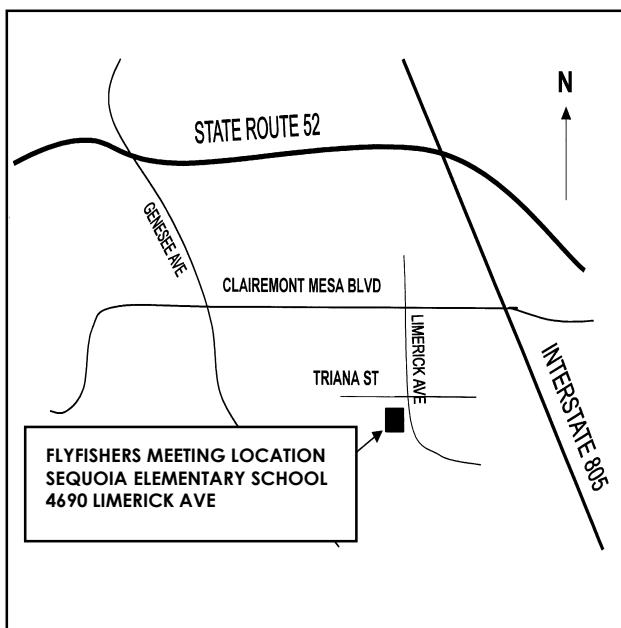
President- George Gates
1st VP- Larry Sorensen
2nd VP- Louie Zimm
Treasurer- Lee McElravy
Secretary- Paul Woolery

DIRECTORS

Jim Castelluzzo
 Warren Lew
 Ron Meler
 Jim Reeg
 Art Reifman
 Gary Strawn
 Gordie Zimm

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Conservation-
 Gary Strawn
FFF Southwest Council-
 SDFF Rep. Open
Fly Casting Clinic- Ned
 Sewell and John Kasten
Fly Tying Clinic-
 Gary Hilbers
Membership-
 Gordie Zimm
Member of the Month-
 Open
Monthly Weekend Outings-
 Dick Mount



Newsletter CoEditors-
 Rose & Roger Yamasaki
 5415 Lodi Place, San Diego
 92117, 858-274-2712
 E-mail:

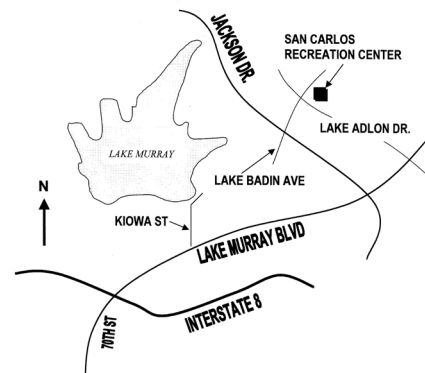
Programs-
Club Biologist-
 Bob Wisner
Raffles- Larry Sorensen

Refreshments-
 Vernon Wescott
Rod Building- Tom Smith
Trips-
 Jack Bentley,
Video & Library-

Web Page- David Collins
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
Women's Education
Focus-
 Gretchen Yearous

Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at 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 Headquarters
 Stroud Tackle
 1457 Morena Blvd.
 San Diego, CA 92110
 619-276-4822



**San Diego
Fly Fishers**

SINCE 1962

1457 Morena Boulevard
 San Diego, California 92110
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
 619.276.4822

*Official Chapter of
Federation of Fly Fishers*

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT NO. 40**