

FINNY FACTS

December 2021

San Diego Fly Fishers
Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 44 No. 12

Annual Club Holiday Party !

**Monday,
December 13th
6:00 pm**

Click: [Details](#)



PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS By 12 noon, Dec 10
RSVP to Jim Castelluzo president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your membership to the San Diego Fly Fishers!

Click: [Membership](#)

Access the Club Calendar [Sdff Calendar](#)

Follow all the action on the Club's [Facebook page](#)

Club Meeting [Zoom Link](#)

Send your submissions to
editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

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President's Message



Jim Castelluzzo
November 1, 2021

president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

I'm thankful that we made it through this extraordinary year. There is a saying by the Roman Poet Virgil that always rings true for me: "The greatest wealth is health". In my mind everything else is relatively simple and should be fun.

This is the time to reflect on the past year; the adventures and outings, new locations discovered, favorite places revisited, the great fish landed and the big one that got away to be caught another day. This is also the time to plan for what lies ahead; outings for this winter, and the coming spring and fall. If you have an idea for a new place to take a small group, feel free to contact me or Tim Huckaby and we can help coordinate a trip. I for one plan to get back to the Green River at some point this summer, spend some time in Montana, hopefully make it to the Stillwater River and visit the Salmon River based on Toms' outing last summer. Erik Helgason has generously offered his home in Burney which is in the middle of some great dry fly fishing water including the McCloud, Fall and Pitt Rivers. Erik can accommodate five in his home with two RV spaces outside. Contact me if interested in a trip to Burney.

We will start the typical monthly meeting earlier this year; 6:00 pm rather than 7:00 pm to allow for folks that have a long commute or need to get home earlier. The zoom meeting will continue into the new year with a 6 PM start time. Look for the monthly zoom meeting invite from Mel Ochs and Tim Huckaby. The speaker's presentation will start at 6:30 and end at 8:00. The Q and A sessions will continue as needed. For those that dine at the SWYC before the meeting, nothing has changed. The restaurant opens at 5:00 pm, which allows time for dinner before the meeting.

Finally, I hope to see you all at our December 13 holiday meeting and Stroud Award Presentation. You will find registration information on the web site. There will be several excellent door prizes including rods, reels, ceramics by Barry Perchersky and SDFP mugs by Kai Schumann.

Excerpts:

"To go fishing is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of the brook, or with the shimmer of sun on blue water. It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a darned thing until next week. And it is discipline in the equality of men - for all men are equal before fish." ~ Herbert Hoover

"Time flies so fast after youth is past that we cannot accomplish one half the many things we have in mind or indeed one half our duties. The only safe and sensible plan is to make other things give way to the essentials, and the first of these is fly fishing." ~ Theodore Gordon

No Speaker
for December
PARTY!

Annual Holiday Party and Service Awards!

Monday December 13, 2021

6 to 9 PM

[Southwestern Yacht Club](#)

In past years we have held the January Stroud Award Banquet to honor club members and special members of the community for service to SDFF or its mission to support the sport of angling with a fly rod through education and conservation.

This year we have decided to combine a December Holiday Party with non-formal dining followed by the Stroud Awards ceremony.

Bring a guest and celebrate another successful year for the SDFF!

**\$15 in advance, which includes
A special club cocktail and wine
Heavy hors d'oeuvres
Door Prizes!**

\$15 per person if paid in advance via our Paypal "Buy Now" portal (see below), \$20 if paid with cash or check at the door, either way, please RSVP by Friday, Dec. 10!

Pay Online: [Holiday Party](#)



*holiday
party*

Happenings

Join us for the annual
Annual Holiday Party and Service Awards
Monday, December 13th
Southwestern Yacht Club.

Please RSVP by December 10!

Heavy Hors D'oeuvres Menu:

**Assorted Specialties -- Prime Rib Sliders, Coconut Shrimp, Mini Beef Wellington, Teriyaki Beef Skewers, Spinach Stuffed Mushrooms, Antipasto Platter
Special Holiday Cocktail and Wine included!**

(Beer and other beverages available for purchase at the club bar.)

Door Prizes, including: Fly rods, reels, and more!

[Dinner Details Link](#)

Celebrate a challenging but eventful year with the club!

Rod Building

Stay tuned for when classes will resume

Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student.
Dates will be announced in the *Finny Facts*.

In the interim, if you are beginning your own project and would like some advice or recommendations, please free to contact [Jack Duncan](#)

Please send news, updates, reports, suggestions to be shared on this page. We want this media to serve the club in any way it can.

Editor: editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Happenings

Club outing at Tidelands, November 14



New member Mark trying out some new gear at the November outing at Tidelands.

By all accounts, a good time was had by all, and Kai once again kept the hungry participants well fed. The fishing was slow, at best, as assessed by club president Jim: "It stunk."

Well, as Mel likes to say, hope springs eternal. And maybe more cooperation from the fish next time!

Mel, Barry and Alan went back to Tidelands for another go at the end of the month with similar disappointing results. "The fish were just GONE!" Barry did get one small spottie and Mel had a foul hooked stingray (see page 20)

Mark (above) was able to scratch up a few small halibut, and a bass.

The bay does fish differently as the water cools, which is happening now, but it does raise an interesting question, where do the fish go?

Feature Article

PALAPAS VENTANA – FLY FISHING FROM PANGAS NEAR LA PAZ!

October 4-9, 2021

By Tim Huckaby (timhuckaby.com)

Who knew you could have so much fun with a 10 weight TFO fly rod?!

That's the line I used when I did the "Old-guy Instagram" thing from the Palapas Ventana Resort in Ventana, Baja, Mexico.

I love this picture that Mike Rundlett took. That's Tom Rundlett on my left and Stan on my right... after a long day of battling big fish.

On October 4-9, 2021, the SDFP club assaulted the Palapas Ventana Resort near La Paz with more saltwater flies, flouro, and fly rods than God. This is an annual trip that the club has been doing for a few years lead by fearless leader, John Ashley. For years these guys have been telling me, "If there is anyone who would enjoy this trip, it's you, Huckaby." They were right. I had a ton of success; some real bucket listers, but I paid my dues in mistakes for sure. I learned a lot on this trip. I can't wait to get back there next October with the club. I'm actually trying to figure out how to get there in the late spring. It was so fun.

I'm an old trout guy with very little ocean experience (fly or conventional). This was my first time doing the fly fishing thing from a Panga. In the myriad of guidance and preparation communications before we left my takeaways were: "It's two people in a panga; one in back and one in front. What a learning experience it was for me! And man did I make mistakes for the first couple days before I got it dialed in.

Feature Article, cont.

The Fishing

What the captain (by all means not a guide) does is make bait with impressive throws of a bait net, sometimes in total darkness. I was wearing polarized lenses and many times I could not see the bait balls the captain was throwing that net at in broad daylight, without wearing glasses, so impressive. So, typically you start early as the sun comes up. Then, with the live bait in the bait tank you zoom out to where the game fish are (dorado, roosters, jack trevallies, and even trevally... along with 25+ other species). Cerralvo Island is a fairly short run across the Sea of Cortez and that is where most of the boats go. The captain starts winging the live bait into the water with a cut out Clorox bottle. The gamefish come up to the surface and go crazy in a fish feed. You throw your fly into the chaos hoping to fool one of them. When you catch them, you have the option to let them go, bring them back to the restaurant to compliment the night's gourmet meal, give it to the captain to enjoy with his family, or have the Palapas Ventana resort vacuum seal, freeze and pack your fish to take home.

Let me try to define a panga:

A panga is a skiff; a modest-sized, open, outboard-powered, fishing boat common throughout much of the developed world. The panga is not one of those super nice boats they use in the Bahamas where the fly fisher in front and in back have plenty of room on a casting platform to ensure a long cast. The bow (front) of the panga has plenty of room for a fly caster and relatively nothing up there to grab a fly line. But, it's not a casting platform; it's the bow of the boat. The stern (back) is a challenge... at least it was for me. If you cast from the deck in the back, you must heave a heavy weighted saltwater fly over the boat's sides or the engine or the captain. I'm a pretty good caster and I even hit the captain once. Guess what? "Oww!" is the same word in Spanish as it is in English. Ultimately, I ended up just climbing on top of the rails in the back of the boat to get some height and balanced myself there; sometimes actually standing in the bait tank with the live sardinas. That allowed me to double haul from a height advantage--or seeming advantage--more on that later. And when the seas got rough, I had to lean against the engine itself. So, when the captain turned the boat my ass turned with it. It's a miracle I didn't fall into the water, but I am pretty agile for an old guy. Being perched high meant I could double haul a cast 60-80 feet, which I learned after a couple days of struggling is not really an advantage. Also, every panga seems to be different. Some are newer and slightly

modern. Some have years of stories behind them with some impressive "Magivering" of a bait tank.

As mentioned, I was told before the trip is "The captain throws live bait in the water and that makes the fish come up and go crazy. Then it's a simple 20 foot cast into the madness." That is kind of true. Just like in trout fishing where there are great guides, good guides, and average guides. The same thing goes for the captains here: some are awesome, some are not. None speak fluent English. Each captain and boat is different and fishes differently in terms of where...and sometimes even how. Mike Hillygus (Montana Lodge owner where we do the annual SDFP trip, and friend of the SDFP club) and I fished 4 days with 4 separate captains and boats. I love that Tim from the Palapas Ventana resort each night at the restaurant does a blind draw on which captain you get each day. One day Mike and I stayed within a mile of the resort near the shore all day. One day we did 10-1 more moving around than fishing, moving from fishing buoy to buoy.

There are a number of fishing buoys that have been strategically placed throughout the area that hold fish. Two days we ran over to Acervo Island and pretty much fished in the same location all day. Mike and I traded getting the bow each day. Mike out-fished me every day. And it wasn't until well through the 3rd day that I figured out why.



Steven with a big ass rooster.

Feature Article, cont.

The School of Hard Knocks—I really don't know why it took me two days to figure this thing out. It may be so obvious to you Saltwater guys and gals with this type of experience, but it was not to me. I wasn't without success. In fact, I had a lot of success. My mission was to catch a big rooster on a fly. I ended up catching a lot of big roosters on the fly. One of the roosters I



Notice Mike battling behind me. Double Hookups were common on this trip.

landed was too big for me to hold to take a trophy shot with it. I had the captain hold it for me. But, now that I know (and now you know), I will be so much more successful on next year's trip. So, hopefully my malfunctions will serve as guidance for the trout anglers that want to do this type of fly fishing:

Double hauling — The 60-80 feet I was doing over and over is just a wasted workout and burn of calories. When I finally did look over at what Mike was doing; he was not doing what I was doing. And having a lot more success. I was basically "hero casting" blind and he was targeting and being efficient about it. I got the guidance from John and Kai before we left, "a simple 20 foot cast is all you need." For some reason I did not think that through. While I was literally huffing and puffing double hauling casts over and over 60+ feet into the abyss, Mike was waiting for the right moment to cast a 30-footer right into the fish he was targeting. Duh... I was dragging the fly through the bait and feeding predators too late. This was a sobering blow for me when we got back to the resort and in the bar I heard all the success my buddies were having...who simply could not cast (or chose not to cast) over 30 feet.

The fly really does matter — How many times in trout fishing do we say something like, "the fly really doesn't matter. Your placement and the drift matter a lot more." Well, in this type of fly fishing the fly really does matter. Even the color matters. The size really matters too. But, what matters the most is that the fly rides correctly in the water imitating a baitfish as best as possible. If you half-ass drunken fly tie in your man cave and your fly spins you don't get takes. My first two days I was fishing big heavy clousers with big, beaded eyes. Not only are they a tough cast but the jiggling thing those eyes produced were not producing as many strikes as Mike. Mike was fishing smaller deceivers (and similar) unweighted flies and killing. He was in the right part of the water column; I was not.

Knots Matter – This is the most painful lesson for me. I have been trout fishing so long. I tie 5 different knots 95% of the time and 95% of the time in 3x and 5x. I can tie them all blind folded. I haven't failed a knot in years. Well, I had no idea how differently 5x knots up than it does with 30lb flouro. I had no idea that you have to wear gloves and yank those knots as tightly as your strength can handle... no idea. I had no idea that you have to inspect your saltwater knots closely because the heavy flouro doesn't just slip into place and knot-up like the light stuff does. I learned that the hard way. I lost a big dorado on a rapala knot that simply failed because it was not pulled tight enough. I didn't even look at the knot after tying it, but you can sure as hell tell a knot has failed when looking at the flouro after losing the fish. And miraculously I also lost a big rooster on a perfection loop knot I tied for the flouro leader. That is a first. Some huge rooster swam away with my entire leader hanging out of his face simply because I didn't pull the knot tight enough. Uggghhh... 30+ years of fly fishing and I am failing knots. I suck. Don't worry about me; a number of margaritas later that night at the bar fixed everything.

Needlefish – I knew about these slimy creatures going in. if you see a needlefish following your fly you simply stop stripping and they will stop the chase. But, if you are hero casting beyond what you can see you inevitably catch them. And you can't really do a damn thing about it. And the poor captain has to figure out how to release them without getting bit by razor sharp fangs.

I'm a conservation guy and feel slightly guilty about when Mike and I giggled watching one of our guides twisting the neck of the needle fish killing them so he could safely remove the fly.

Feature Article, cont.



Tom and Doug Rundlett with another fly fishing double. notice the *Pinchi Patos* in the background.

Pelicans “pinchi patos”—I laughed out loud when our captain yelled that as I caught my first pelican. I speak decent Spanish and that loosely translates to “f-ing duck”. Pelicano is a beautiful word in Spanish. The captains don’t use that word. They call them “pinchi patos”. Btw, there is competition and hilarious chatter on the radio between the captains. At one point, laughing, I said in Spanish, smiling, to our captain, “you do realize I understand what you guys are saying, right?”

He laughed because there was a comment about one of my buddies in a different boat not having enough manhood to fight the fish he hooked. I’d write what he said in Spanish, but common decorum precludes me from doing it here (I hope someone gets that Animal House reference.) But, my god, the pelicans. On the day that our captain stayed on shore within a mile of the resort the pelicans followed us the entire time. It was fairly frustrating. Those birds have become accustomed to the captains throwing bait in the water and intercepting that bait, which means they have unnaturally flourished in population because of it. At points I had to pinpoint cast to a two-foot window through the gauntlet (50 or more) of pelicans with no way to strip the fly back without the pelicans taking it. If you see a pelican take your fly you learn quickly to stop stripping. They spit your fly out if you wait, which is excruciating if the fish are going nuts. But, if you strip too quickly after that you risk them grabbing it again. And then there is the good chance of simply leg hooking them as you strip your fly back; many times with a fish chasing. On that day I caught ~15 pelicans. Let’s just say the captains don’t really dig pulling a barbed fly out of a pelican’s mouth or leg. Pinchi patos!

The Palapas Ventana Resort—I am no stranger to fly fishing lodges; I have been lucky. Let me just start by saying the Palapas Ventana resort is a fraction of the cost of the high-end lodges in Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Remember that I was joined by a Montana Lodge owner, Mike Hillygus from the [Stillwater River Outpost Lodge](#) and the [Clark Fork Outpost Lodge](#). Mike was surprised at what a deal it was. It’s Mexico.

For the SDFP club trip we had two people in each Palapa; Mike was my roommate. These are not really palapas at the resort; they are so much better. A traditional palapa is an open sided cheap building with the thatched roof. These palapas are stand-alone buildings with a large bedroom and separate large bathroom.... With air conditioning; key for this part of the world. “They have a bar.” That is the line I usually start with when describing this place. I love bars and I’m not shy about it. They also have a complimentary restaurant that goes with the bar. But, this isn’t just any Mexican restaurant. Each night we were served a gourmet quality meal. One night we had a Japanese themed sushi and sashimi set of dishes that rivaled anything I have had in the states.... Or in the Japan for that matter. You don’t go back skinnier on this trip; the food is that good.

Within steps of the bar is an Endless Pool where you can stare at the ocean. Imagine fishing for 8 hours and battling big fish on your 10 weight to come back, grab a beer, walk into the pool and just stare at the ocean while saying things like, “this is the good life”. They focus on service – Tim and his partner have trained his seemingly enormous staff well. From the groundskeepers to the servers to the bartenders to the financial manager. They are friendly and attentive. On the first night he introduces his generals to the entire group. It’s a classy move. When you leave you end up hugging these people they are so awesome. I should mention that Palapas Ventana is not solely a fly fishing lodge. In fact, Ventana is more famous for its wind surfing and scuba diving. Both those are options at the resort. Also the resort provides snorkeling equipment for free while you are there. It’s a tropical fish and coral paradise in front of the lodge. It just so happens that if you are watching tropical fish you have to always be on the lookout for that patrolling roosterfish.

Yeah, it’s conceivable to DIY the roosters right from the shore like you see on those fly fishing shows.

Feature Article, cont.

Summary (see the full story and more pics on timhuckaby.com)

I know my way around a trout stream... that is for sure. You learn a bit when you do it for 35 years. What the many experts in the SDFF club have taught me... and continue to teach me, is the fly fishing saltwater game. Let me tell you it's compelling. I watch all the fly fishing shows on TV and it is frequently mentioned that catching a large roosterfish on the fly is in the top ten of fly-fishing bucket listers. I caught a bunch of big Roosters and from what I wrote above you can tell I barely knew what the hell I was doing. In the bar after that first day of fishing I told my fly fishing compadres, "I had no idea how fast those dorado swim." When you hook up with a Dorado you watch the entire thing... they are so colorful and beautiful. It's almost surreal how quickly it happens when they take your fly. Complimenting this awesome fly fishing is simply an awesome resort. It's run so well with awesome food and service. They make you feel like family when you are there. Did I tell you they have a bar? I am definitely going back to Palapas Ventana.



Hey that's me with a huge jack crevalle! Mike in the background cerebrating.



Jim Castelluzzo, the SDFF club president with a pompano.



Sashimi anyone?

Planned Trips 2021

Dec. 18 El Capitan Reservoir



**See Kai about getting your
very own SDFF mug!**

For more information Please contact **Kai Schumann**

or look for details in *The Indicator*.

Questions? Contact us at outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com



Fly of the Month

The Silver Hilton



Silver Hilton is a steelhead and trout go-getter on both famed networks of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. The fly was developed by Klamath/Trinity regulars (Roy Donnelly, Jim Prey and Lloyd Silvius) and used exclusively in the lower reaches of both waters, namely Willow Creek, Hoopa, Weitchpec, Blue Creek and Blakes. The Hilton is a stylish attractive pattern that reflects great color contrast (black, white, silver) and its beater wings add plenty of motion to provide a very lifelike aquatic appearance. The pattern fishes well throughout the entire Trinity River, especially during the fall months, and is also very productive in a variety of water conditions – low – high – clear and turbid. New versions, including red and chartreuse green butts, have also given new dimension to this pattern. Some long term anglers feel it is the only pattern needed to catch Trinity River steelhead.

- **Hook** - Tiemco 7999 (#4 -6 - 8 -10)
- **Thread** - Danville 6/0 Black
- **Tail** - Barred Mallard Flank
- **Rib** - Silver Mylar Tinsel
- **Body** - Black Ultra Chenille
- **Wing** - Two Grizzly Hackles
- **Hackle** - Soft Grizzly Hackle

Click here for: [Tying Instructions](#)

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2021

We are pleased to announce our casting instruction program for 2021. 2020 was a challenging year in many respects and as we look forward to this coming year, we appreciate everyone's patience as we have had to make adjustments to our casting programs.

Sunday fly casting instruction is back at Lake Murray with [Alan Thompson](#) at 9:00 am.

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

Casting Skills Challenge Program: The FFI has reintroduced a program they call the Casting Skills Challenge. It is designed for the experienced beginner caster as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun way to study, practice and challenge oneself in a progressive fashion. We will be offering this program to SDFF membership in 2021. More information on the program can be found on the FFI website.

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

Intermediate Casting Clinic: I will plan to hold it later in the year. We will limit attendance to ten. Times and dates will be published when determined.



For questions please contact: [John Wylie](#)

Conservation & Education

Trout in the classroom is returning! Look for fish release dates soon.

Check here for volunteer opportunities in 2022!



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

Women's Programs



Look for more activities and events in 2022!

Brooke Sargent [Women's Programs](#)

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a nationwide non-profit dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education, classes and outings. The Program has been in existence since 2006. Our San Diego Program is one of 200+ such programs in the U.S. Each Program is organized and maintained through a local fly fishing club, in our case the San Diego Fly Fishers. Our San Diego Program first started in 2009.

WHEN: The first and third Wednesdays of every month at 5:00 p.m.
Next class is Wednesday, November 3rd.

WHERE: Santee Historical Society Edgemoor Barn, (The White Barn),
9200 North Magnolia Avenue, Santee.

WHAT: Classes on fly tying, fly casting and general fly fishing information.
Some fishing outings are planned as conditions permit.

WHO: All disabled military, active duty or retired, are welcome to join us. No prior fly fishing (or any fishing) experience necessary. No charge. All fly fishing and fly tying equipment and material available free of charge.

Please RSVP to our San Diego Program Lead, [Lee McElravy](#)

We are happy to address any questions you may have to help you get started.

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

SWCFFI



Click here to directly link the [SWCFFI](#) web page!

- Trout Rodeo - February 26, 2022. [Michael Schweit](#)
- Riptide Rendezvous 2022 – Date TBD
- Fly Buy (Winter) 2022 – Date TBD

Women's Programs - Cat White ([Women's Programs](#)) continues to introduce new programs to the council. Stay tuned!

The **San Diego Fly Fishers** is affiliated with the **Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International ([SWCFFI](#))** [John Wylie](#), Representative

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

Who or What is the Southwest Council?

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

Membership

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Ready to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers?
Please support your club by planning to renew for 2022!**

[Renew online](#)

We are all about fishing and having fun!

Don't miss out! Join or renew!

You can renew your membership on-line through the SDFF website, or you can renew in person at our monthly programs; or you can download an application on our website and mail a check to

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



Contact: [Alan Thompson](#)

Or Renew at the next Monthly SDFF Meeting

SDFF has four membership levels

Individual.....\$40

Family.....\$50

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

Your renewal will cheer up this guy!

Renew your membership (or your family's). It's simple.

On-line at sandiegoflyfishers.com then follow the instructions.

Thank you,
Alan Thompson
Membership

Volunteers are needed

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

“What service can I provide to my Club”?

Service Opportunities

Fishing Outings

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

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

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

Fundraising

- ◆ We need 2 or 3 more volunteers to help serve on the committee
- ◆ Contact: Warren Lew [fundraising](#)

Greeters are needed at our Monthly meetings!

We are planning to have 2 or 3 greeters at each event to help new people into our Club. It's a great way to serve the Club and meet new Flyfishers.

Please contact [Jim Castelluzzo](#)

Project Healing Waters

- ◆ Help with this important program that serves Veterans in need.
- ◆ If you know of a Veteran in need Please let us know!
- ◆ Contact: [Lee McElravy](#) to learn how you can contribute.

Women's Program

- ◆ Please contact Brooke Sargent [Women's Programs](#) for information and way to get involved.

Fishing!



Mission Beach perch for Stephan!



Mel couldn't find the stinger on this fish, but it's there!



Brooke with a nice Owens' rainbow!

Please share a picture of your catch at:
Sandiegoflyfishers.com



Nice brown for Kevin on the Lower O!

Guides and Resources

San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse nor recommend any particular Guide or Business. This Information is intended to provide the reader with known providers of services related to fly fishing in our local area and in California. This is not intended to be a complete list of available services.

Guides

Eastern Sierra:

[Sierra Drifters](#)

[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#)

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#)

[Kern River Fly Shop](#)

[Wild Fly Anglers](#)

Northern California:

[Acosta Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead)

[Fine and Far Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead/Spey Trips)

[Baiocchi's Troutfitters](#)

San Diego Bay/Surf/Lakes:

[Conway Bowman](#)

[Alex Cady @ Fly Stop](#)

Fly Fishing Equipment:

[STROUD TACKLE](#)

[THE FLY STOP](#)

[Flies by Favorite](#)

River Flows and Reports

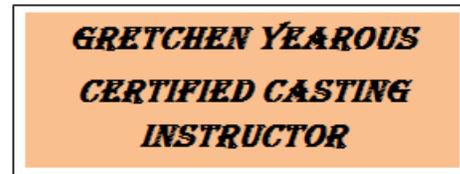
[Dreamflows](#)

[USGS Flows](#)

[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)

Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



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



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

LAKE CUYAMACA NEEDS YOUR HELP! **KILL A CARP!**

Board of Directors

San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2021

James Castelluzzo	President
Vice President	vacant
Andrea Rae	Treasurer
Mel Ochs	Secretary
Alan Thompson	Membership Sunday Fly Casting
John Ashley	Communications Coordinator
Tim Garcia	Youth Programs
Bruce Harris	At large
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The Indicator

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[San Diego Fly Fishers](#)

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

For Directions to all Club Meetings, Clinics and Fly tying classes visit our website at: [Activities Maps](#)



Tailing Loops

A seasonal memory from your humble editor.

It was Christmas morning, about 10 years ago, when after the traditional pre-dawn assault, with mounds of wrapping paper piled beneath the tree, my son, Thomas, then eight-years old and the proud owner of new tackle box, asked "Can we go fishing now?" Given the limitations of time and distance, and the demands of the day it was a ridiculous suggestion, so of course I agreed.

"Really?" asked my beloved spouse.

"Sure! We can drive up to Lake Cuyamaca and catch some trout!" I said, as my son flashed a hopeful smile, but my beloved was not convinced. She expressed a general doubt about spontaneity, and a more specific reminder that we were expected to meet with the extended family later that day.

"But that's not until two, and we can be there and back by noon, maybe one..." I said. She remained doubtful, so I tried rebranding:

"Look, it will be a great drive, we might see snow, and you can walk among the pines while Thomas and I fish. You love the smell of pine trees." Privately I confided that given the conditions (cold) and the attention span of our son (short) it would be a brief outing.

As we pulled into the parking lot, I wasn't even sure if the lake was open. It was. What's more, they had rental boats available. They suggested a powered skiff, in case the wind came up, but confident of my skill and endurance—as well as wanting to save 25 bucks—I opted for the rowboat. My wife brought our dog, Reno, a cute but willful corgi who's been known to bite the hand that feeds him. She agreed to walk him on the trail that loops the lake while Thomas and I went on the water.

"Give us an hour and a half, tops... we'll meet you back here." She didn't seem as invested in this project as one might hope.

There were a few people on shore but we were the only boat. The cool but sunny morning became increasingly brisk with low clouds moving in from the west between the peaks and over the dam. Conditions that started out tolerable were quickly deteriorating.

After rowing to a reliable spot, Thomas's rig—complete with a rubbery scented orange worm—was cast into the water. I prefer to fish with a fly rod and I promote that ethic with my son, but the goal now was to get a fish and get off the water. I half-heartedly flung a woolly buggie on my six-weight into the line-collapsing gusts. Thomas, bundled as though ready for a toboggan run, clutched the rod and forced an occasional smile through bluing lips. Almost an hour passed and I uttered a few oaths condemning the fishing gods, the weather, and my own foolishness.

Miraculously, the tip of Thomas's rod started bouncing. "Swing!" I yelled, and he was on. With fierce determination, Thomas hauled 10 inches of hatchery trout over the gunwale. As it flopped about, I was already pulling up the anchor. Normally, one doesn't call it a day so quickly, but even my son offered no protest. I recall this was when the first snowflakes began to sweep across the lake.

As I grabbed the oars, looking to the east I could see my wife waving her arms frantically from shore. Thinking the dog had stepped on a thorn or been mauled by a bobcat, I rowed to the rescue. Going with the wind on such a small lake I got there quickly "What's wrong, is Reno okay?"

"He's fine, damn it! I'm freezing!"

Once she and the dog were aboard, I began to row west, and into a wind that was now creating substantial white caps. I dreaded the indignity of getting a tow from the lake staff, so I really put my back into it and was breathing like I had a jalapeno lodged in my throat.

The trout, now dead and partially frozen, was still on the deck. I had a stringer somewhere, but I didn't dare let go of the oars for fear of losing ground. Suddenly, Reno snatched the fish. My son tried to get it away from him, but the little beast had developed pride of ownership and was growling. My wife, a former middle school teacher, and not the sort to tolerate any form of insubordination, engaged in a courageous struggle and ultimately retrieved the tattered fish.

And so, with son crying, back aching, and wife scowling, I rowed us triumphantly back to the dock.

Once there, Reno jumped out of the boat to confront some geese and quickly learned they were considerably more bad-assed than he.

In retrospect, it was a perfect day.

Merry Christmas!

