

# FINNY FACTS

## San Diego Fly Fishers

March 2020

Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 43 No. 3

### March Speaker Program

Sam Vasily  
Pyramid Lake



Southwestern Yacht Club  
March 2nd @ 7:30 PM

Please send Content to  
[editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

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*Feature Articles (please submit your writing!)*

Time to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers for 2020.

# President's Message

My goal this year is to start planning the major club events early . I don't like surprises. These events all take work and the support of our dedicated volunteers. We are planning the Strouds Banquet, the Annual June Fundraiser, the annual Barbeque, the annual youth fishing derby on Shelter Island , and the upcoming Day on the Docks. We will be reaching out to the membership to help with these important outreach events and club fundraisers. Spring is right around the corner. I'm still working on tying Clousers for the Bay and Baja Sur later this summer. I'll also work on some soft hackles which I often overlook , but are very effective. Another go to fly I'd like to tie is the flash back pheasant tail and the zebra midge. You can never have too many. I ran short on Hot Creek this past week and had to substitute for another sized 18 pheasant tail which still produced.

The Annual Winter trip to Bishop on February 20 was a great success. I don't usually like to fish in snow shoes, jockey short warmers, foot warmers, with frozen guides, walking through 3 feet of snow to get to Hot Creek. I've been there, done that. When I saw the weather was favorable, I was all in. We left at 0 dark thirty for the ride up to Bishop and we were on Hot Creek by 11:30. I was landing fish on the small pheasant tails and the blue wing olive. Tim Huckaby was nailing them on the Griffiths gnat and other dries. Gary Strawn and Alan Thompson had an epic day on the drift boat landing, as Gary states, "more fish than were landed in the last 3 years." Lee McElravy, Paul Woolery , Jack Duncan, Alan and Gary also were doing very well on dries on the Upper and Lower Owens. Flows were good and there were good hatches coming off the water as the day warmed. Steve Vissers and Tim guided with Sam Vasily and as usual Sam worked his magic. We all caught some good 20+" bows along with natives trout on the Upper Owens. I'd recommend this trip next year for all of you who have yet to make it.

The club has had a booth at the Day on the Docks for over 15 years. This event marks the start of the San Diego salt water charter fishing season and includes fishing related arts, crafts and supplies. The goal of our booth is to provide information about our clubs outreach activities, fly fishing opportunities in the salt, fly tying demonstrations and when available a speaker discussing salt water fly fishing methods. Paul Woolery, Lee McElravy and others have done the heavy lifting for this event for many years. We will continue this tradition with a new cast of SDFE ambassadors led by Kai Schumann and Mel Ochs. Join us for a day of fun, salt water fly tying and camaraderie on April 19 at Fisherman's Landing.

**Jim Castelluzzo**  
[president@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:president@sandiegoflyfishers.com)



# Speaker Programs

## Upcoming Programs

March 2	Sam Vasily	Eastern Sierras and Pyramid Lake
April 6	Steve Schalla	President of Fly Fishers International Southwest Council
May 4	Glenn Ueda,	SoCal Flats Guide Service
<b>June 1</b>		<b>Club Fundraiser and Raffle!</b>
July 6	Butch Paddock	Head Ranger, Lake Cuyamaca

If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for speaking to the club let us know.  
For information contact [Jim Castelluzzo](#) or [Tim Huckaby](#)

**We look forward to seeing at our next meeting!**



# Bishop Rendezvous

## Highlights from the Bishop/Owens River Rendezvous, Feb 21-23



The Prez keeping one still for the camera.



Steve with a handful of rainbow



Let's see... whiskey, beer, red wine... and ketchup. Yep, that covers all the essentials for these intrepid San Diego Fly Fishers!

## Bishop, cont.



Gary with a nice Lower Owens' Rainbow.

By all accounts this was one of the better Bishop trips considering the cooperative weather and the numbers of robust trout that were brought to hand. San Diego Fly Fishers worked the Upper and Lower Owens, Hot Creek, and all points in between.



Gary's Ride.



Check out the pattern on this Upper Owens beauty caught by Mike Gilroy.



Sam lends a hand for a SDFF client.

## Happenings

Let's Fish in March!



March 22 – Sunday : Tube/Kayak – Lake Sutherland for Bass,  
Crappie and Catfish

Questions Contact us at [outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

You can also meet up with members planning local trips:

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

Stay tuned for dates for a local fishing outing on the bay. Follow us on Facebook for announcements.

# Planned Trips 2020

Here are the preliminary outings planned for the coming year.

**January 19** – Sunday : Tube/Kayak – Lake Miramar for Trout and Bass

**February 8** – Saturday : Shorepounders – Hotel Del Coronado Beach for Barred Surf Perch

**February 21 –23** Friday to Sunday: Bishop/Owens River Rendezvous

**March 22** – Sunday : Tube/Kayak – Lake Sutherland for Bass, Crappie and Catfish

**April 11** – Saturday : Tube/Kayak – Bahia Mission Bay for Spotted Bay Bass

**May 17** – Sunday : Tube/Kayak – Lake Morena for Carp, Bass, Panfish

**June 6-14** – Estero Coyote Baja Trip

**June 20** – Saturday : Shorepounders – North Torrey Pines State Beach for Corbina & Surf Perch

**July 12** – Sunday : Tube/Kayak – Otay Lake for Bass & Panfish

**August 22** – Sunday : Tube/Kayak – Shelter Island Launch, on Rising Tide

**September 20** – Sunday : Boat/Kayak – Lake Cuyamaca for Trout, Bass, Crappie & Bluegill

**October 17** – Saturday : Tube/Kayak – Tidelands Park for Spotted Bass & Halibut

**November 15** – Sunday : Tube/Kayak – Lake Murray for Trout & Bass

**December 12** – Saturday : Tube/Kayak – Coronado Cays, Grand Caribe for Spotted Bass Slack, then Falling Tide, 6:50am High 7.2'; 1:52 Low -1.0'

For more information Please contact **Kai Schumann** or look for details in the Indicator. Questions? Contact us at [outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com)



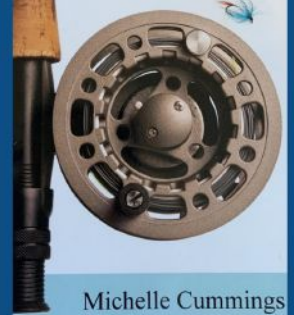
# SDFF Women's Program



On a recent Wednesday night, fly fishing women from San Diego Fly Fishers and Golden State Fly Casters gathered to meet Michelle Cummings, author of the novel "The Reel Sisters". Michelle was in town for a conference, and spoke about the process of writing her book. She talked about why she chose to learn to fly fish and write a story about female characters

Meet  
the  
author!  
February  
12th  
6pm  
San  
Diego  
Mission  
Bay  
Boat  
and  
Ski  
Club

## The Reel Sisters



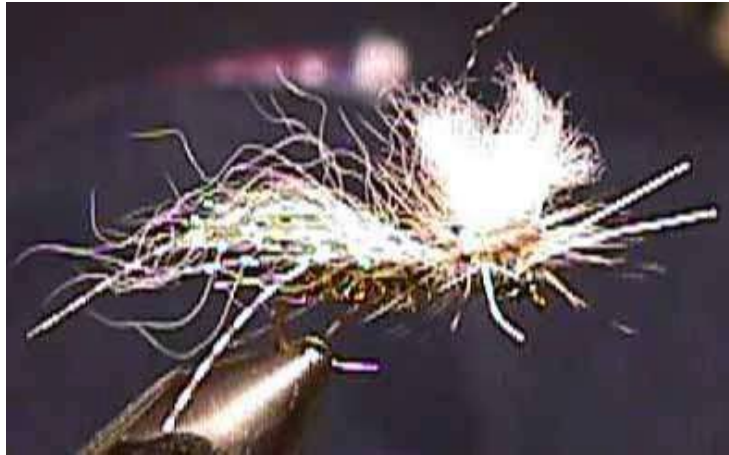
Michelle Cummings

Sp Adobe Spark

Contact [Sherry Ashbaugh](#) for details or to get involved.



# Fly of the Month



## Fireman's Peacock PMX (Parachute Madam X)

Hook:	Dry fly, TMC 100 size 12 or 14
Thread:	Black 6/0 flat waxed nylon - Danville
Tail:	None on this simple version
Abdomen:	Peacock herl
Under wing:	Pearl Krystal Flash, sparse
Wing:	White calf tail
Legs:	Black and white striped small or very small centipede leg
Post:	White poly yarn or Hi-Vis poly
Thorax:	Black thread
Hackle:	Grizzly saddle or rooster neck
Head:	Black thread.

This delicate little fly was given to me by two Salt Lake City Firemen on the Green River. They were catching 25 fish per day on it fished in the seams and along the edges of the back eddies. Note the distinct body shape of an insect like a small stone fly. Peacock abdomen, thin waist, fatter thorax, a thin neck and a distinct head.

Attach thread at the mid hook, wrap to bend. Attach three peacock herl, form a herl rope and wrap to mid shank. Attach 6 strands of pearl flash as under wing. Clean out under-fur and size a sparse calf tail wing. Trim butts and secure in front of flash. Tips should extend one hook gap past the bend. Secure a white poly yarn post at the  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{7}{8}$  point. Wrap a thread around the base of the post 4 or 5 times to make it firmer. Attach a saddle hackle sized for 2 to 2.5 hook gaps, convex barbs down. Wrap a thread post up the yarn and the base of the quill and back down. Let the hackle stand up while attaching two sets of legs. The rear leg should extend past the wing. Pull the front legs forward and form a distinct thread thorax. Wrap the thread to the back of the post position in preparation for the hackle. Wrap the grizzly hackle counterclockwise while holding up on the poly post. Make 3 or 4 wraps under each other, down the post. Finish close to the body. Wrap three tight turns counterclockwise around the base of the post and hackle tip. Keep it close to the body. Pull the thread forward, form a distinct thread head and whip finish. Trim the hackle tip with the tips of your scissors.

This would be a good fly for an ant, cricket or stonefly on any waters. Lucky.

For more information contact [Lucky Ketcham](#)

# Rod Building

We will plan another class in March of 2020. Stay tuned. Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student. Dates will be announced in February Finny Facts.

You do not want to miss out on this incredible SFFF service. You will be learning from a true master. I have two Jack Duncan built rods and they are magical. One helped me fight and win a battle with a nearly 30 inch brown on the East Walker. And another testimonial :

....."the greatest 5 weight of all time...that will never be matched in 100 lifetimes....which has literally bagged hundreds of trout in its short 9 month lifespan.... has the words "Tim Huckaby" painted on the butt section....and was built on Winston boron III LS blanks by the world famous Jack Duncan".

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

Rod Building help is an important benefit of being a San Diego Fly Fisher. In the coming editions of Finny Facts and on the Website look for "Tips from Jack" to help those who want to build their own rod.

JACK'S TIP OF THE MONTH- "LIFE IS LIKE A FLY ROD". MAKE YOUR OWN." Ray Mehl



# Casting Corner

## San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2020

We are please to announce our casting instruction program for 2020. Led by our certified casting instructor John Wylie, we hope that this will provide a more focused approach to help improve your casting skills.

Note: These lessons replace our legacy "intermediate sessions". The SDFF beginners casting sessions held at Lake Murray on Sundays remain unchanged. These lessons are intended to build skills over a two class course. Participants will gain the most by attending both class sessions per focused area.

These classes are open to all members of San Diego Fly Fishers and Golden State Flycasters. Sign up early to reserve your place.

For questions and to sign up please contact: [John Wylie](#) or look for a sign up sheet at the monthly meetings.

### Casting 101 (two sessions)

Will cover the basics of Equipment, Knots and Fly Casting.... Good for an introduction or review of the basics.

February 1 & 8 (Saturday)

8:30 am to 11:30 am

Session 1 Location Mission Bay Playa II Grass area near the round covered patio.

### Session 2 Lake Murray

Cost: \$20 (please bring to the first session)

Limit 20

### Teach the Teacher- Review

March 7th (Saturday)

8:30am to 11:30

Lake Murray

No Cost

### Intermediate Casting Skills (two sessions)

Focus is on Fly line Control, Loop Control, Accuracy and Presentation Casts

May 31st (Sunday) & June 6th (Saturday) 8:30 am to 11:30

Mission Bay/Ski Beach

Cost \$20

Limit to 20

### Advanced Casting (2 two sessions)

Learn/Review the Double Haul and casting for distance

October 10 & 17 (Saturdays) 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Mission Beach/Ski Beach

Limit to 10

## Conservation & Education

San Diego Fly Fishers is a service club with a long history of supporting a variety of conservation, habitat and educational programs. The Club's primary focus is to support projects that serve our local habitats, fisheries and schools. We also support other conservation organizations with projects in California. Our activities are supported by Club members through "boots on the ground" volunteer work and via the donations received at Club fundraising events. We work closely with a number of local, regional and national organizations to support research, improve habitats and foster a conservation ethic for future generations. We are very proud of our work and the ongoing support from our membership. If you wish to join us in this service work please contact the Committee Chair, [Gary Strawn](#)

- Trout in the Classroom fish release, March 13, 9:30 to noon at Lake Murray. All members welcomed to come assist, for any amount of time you're available.
- Golden Trout Wilderness camp and work outing (and of course a little fishing too). Tentatively scheduled for June 24—28.



Please continue to support SDFP and our conservation, education and outreach programs with your participation and donations at our fundraising events. You make all this possible.

If you know of good conservation project that needs some support, please share you ideas with the committee.

[conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

# Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters (PHW) Fly Fishing is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. San Diego Fly Fishers (SDFF) is proud to be a local affiliate of PHW. Our San Diego based program, serves veterans locally by providing opportunities to learn fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing. We are a service organization and are pleased to offer opportunities to our veterans to help them find out more about the arts associated with fly fishing. If you are looking for a good way to contribute to our veterans and your Club, please let us know.

Help us find Veterans in Need!!

Our Club has an exceptional team of dedicated volunteers who commit time to helping disabled Vets learn about fly fishing, tying and casting. Over the course of the past year our program has struggled to gain reliable access to Vet's from the VA, etc. Currently the program leaders are working with local VFW's and American Legions to let people know about this service. If you know a disabled veteran who would benefit from spending some time with us please contact [Lee McElravy](#)

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

Join in and help the Club support our PHW program. Lee McElravy is now running this page and has indicated he will be doing regular updates. Share it to any one you know who may benefit from our programs or would like to help. Contact: Lee McElravy for more information

## Fly Tying

PHW leaders are revisiting the fly tying location and time. Expect a new schedule in January to include an evening tying session.

## Fly Casting

Where: Santee lakes, Santee CA  
When: third Saturday at 9 AM



Follow all the action on the Clubs [Facebook page!](#)

# Southwest Council FFI

San Diego Fly Fishers is affiliated with the Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International (FFI). Look for more happenings in the SW region in future editions of Finny Facts.

## Southwest Council Fly Fishers International

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.

For more information Contact [John Wylie](#) our Representative for FFI

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

<https://www.swcffi.org/shop>



# Membership

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 2020 dues soon.**

2020 is here and time to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers.

We have a very active year planned with lot's of opportunities to fish and have fun. Don't miss out! Join or renew.

You can renew your membership on-line though the website: [www.sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://www.sandiegoflyfishers.com); or you can renew in person at our monthly programs; or you can download an application on our website and mail a check.

[Renew online](#)

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)

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

**Please welcome our newest members!**

**FAMILY**

**INDIVIDUAL**

John Battle  
Anna Stone



# Membership

**Why is this Member of the San Diego Fly Fishers  
Smiling?  
He has renewed his Membership!**



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

1. On-line at [sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://sandiegoflyfishers.com) then follow the instructions.
2. A check by mail to:  
San Diego Fly Fishers,  
10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd. #327  
San Diego, CA 92124
3. In Person-March 2<sup>nd</sup> Program.

Thank you,  
Alan Thompson  
Membership Chair



# 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](#) or [Mike Gilroy](#) 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: [Sherry Ashbaugh](#)

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.

- ◆ Day at the Docks, we need volunteers April 19.

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 [Sherry Ashbaugh](#) for information and way to get involved

# Fishing!

Alex brings one to the net at Liberty Station!



Mel doubled-up on the yellowfin!



Jim bags the less common but highly regarded spotfin croaker, also at Liberty station.



Kim with a hefty Palm Springs bucket mouth.



Bay Master, Bob Pharaoh.

# Board of Directors 2020

Here is the list of your SDFB Board of Directors for 2020. We are still looking for someone to serve as Vice President.

## 2020 Board of Directors Roles and Responsibilities

James Castelluzzo	<a href="#">President</a>
Vacant	Vice President
Bruce Harris	<a href="#">Treasurer</a>
Mel Ochs	<a href="#">Secretary</a>
Sherry Ashbaugh	<a href="#">Fundraising</a>
Mike Gilroy	<a href="#">Media Coordinator</a>
Mark Hedderson	<a href="#">Editor, Finny Facts/ Indicator</a>
Tim Huckaby	<a href="#">Speaker Programs</a>
Warren Lew	<a href="#">Fundraising/At Large</a>
Lee McElravy	<a href="#">Project Healing Waters</a>
Kai Schumann	<a href="#">Monthly Outings</a>
Gary Strawn	<a href="#">Conservation</a>
Alan Thompson	<a href="#">Membership</a>
John Wylie	<a href="#">Casting Instruction</a>
Wendell Callaway	Member at Large

## Other Programs and Chairpersons

Sherry Ashbaugh	<a href="#">Women's Program</a>
Jack Duncan	<a href="#">Rod Building</a>
Lucky Ketchum	<a href="#">Fly Tying Congress</a>

Web Master  
[Web Site Manager- David Collins](#)

Mardi Gras Mel



Secretary

Follow all the action on the Clubs [Facebook page!](#)

# Guides and Resources

San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse or 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's

[Sierra Drifters](#)

[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#)

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#)

[Kern River Fly Shop](#)

### 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](#)

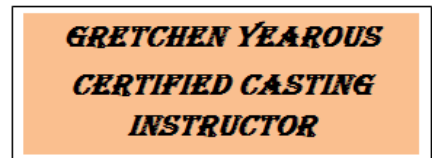
[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)

# Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



Bob Berry Fish Carvings



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!

# Tailing Loops

## San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2020

- James Castelluzzo [President](#)
- Open [1st Vice-President](#)
- Bruce Harris [Treasurer](#)
- Mel Oches [Secretary](#)
- Tim Huckaby [Speaker Programs](#)
- Kai Schumann [Outings/At Large](#)
- Jack Duncan [Rod Building](#)
- Mike Gilroy [Media Coordinator](#)
- Mark Hedderson [Finny Fact / Indicator](#)
- Warren Lew [Fundraising/At large](#)
- Lee McElravy [Project Healing Waters](#)
- Gary Strawn [Conservation](#)
- Alan Thompson [Membership](#)
- Lucky Ketcham [Fly tying/At-Large](#)
- John Wylie [Casting Instruction/  
SWC-FFI](#)

### Other Chairpersons

Alan Thompson .....[Sunday Fly Casting](#)

David Collins .....[Web Master](#)

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.

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

**The Indicator**  
 Emailed twice a month with updates and breaking news!  
 Make sure you are on the list to stay informed.

Follow SDFF adventures and news our FACEBOOK page. Post your own adventures and pictures.  
[San Diego Fly Fishers](#)

Cut-off date for the Finny Facts is the 15th of each month  
 Send submissions to: [media@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:media@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

