

FINNY FACTS

June 2022

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

Volume 45 No. 06

Next Club Meeting:
Monday, June 6th
6:30 pm, Guest Speaker Chad Loflen
Gather at 5:00 pm for food and drinks



**Watching Over the Waters
of the San Diego Region**

Access the Club Calendar [SDFF Calendar](#)
Follow all the action on the Club's [Facebook page](#)
Club Meeting [Zoom Link](#)

Renew your membership to the San Diego Fly Fishers!
Click: [Membership](#)

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President's Message



Jim Castelluzzo
June, 2022

president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

We have some great flyfishing outings coming up this month. The folks are heading down to Estero Coyote (Baja Mexico) June 4th and I will be with them in spirit. Won't be making it down this year but hope to make it next year. The fishing is great, the chefs are awesome, the conversation is both fishy and colorful (and the bartender is unequalled!)

We will be pounding Lake Henshaw June 18th with Kai's monthly outing group and our June 24 Barrett trip is rapidly filling up. I've reached out to our local clubs to join us and make this a successful event. Hopefully, as we get this process down, we will offer this trip once or even twice a year.

Brookes' SDFW women's group have a Glorietta bay fishing day planned fishing out of skiffs. Stay tuned for more updates from Brooke on this trip.

The bass fishers are having great success at Barrett and other local lakes. Steve Jordan keeps coming up with great bass and striper patterns. I've had a great day at Barrett with both streamers and balanced leeches, but I've yet to get into a good surface bite. I'm set up to crank our multiple colors of the Stealth Bomber in my vice. Will give these a try as soon as I can get out there.

Tim Huckabys' Forks of Kern trip will be scheduled for later in the summer as the water levels come down. Gary Strawns' Golden Trout Conservation Project is scheduled for June 23 — 26th. I'm looking forward to the warm waters bringing the corbina up into the surf line. This should be coming up in the next month. (Ken Ueda, our July guest speaker, will present on casting to the grey ghost!) Keep an eye out for those sand crabs at your feet, the corbina should be keying in on them soon. Finally, get out there, have fun, and pursue your favorite past time.

Excerpts:

I think I fish in part because it's an anti-social, bohemian business that, when gone about properly, puts you forever outside the mainstream culture without actually landing you in an institution.

—John Gierach

Speaker Program

Monday, June 6th

Chad Loflen, 6:30 p.m.

Food and Drinks? Join us at 5:00 pm

[Southwestern Yacht Club](#)

Chad Loflen manages the water monitoring efforts at the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control board which is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Chad's talk will give an overview of water quality regulations and monitoring in the San Diego Region. It will touch upon what is monitored, how, where, and why, with a focus on local stream health and fish tissue monitoring.

Chad's Background

His team monitors the quality of our streams, bays, estuaries and beaches from South Orange County to the Tijuana river. Chad is an avid fisherman. He and his family help with our **Golden Trout project every summer and he voluntarily performs a bioassessment in the meadow every five years to evaluate the effects of our work.**



**Tuesday, July 5th
Glenn Ueda
Corbina, Ghost of the Coast**

Happenings

Barrett Lake Club Day June 24th!

\$40 Sign up on SDFP [website](#)

(There were spots available, but no rental boats, as of June 3)

Fly Tips for Barrett Lake June 24:

Comments from Kim Jones last year (June 2021) on Barrett: "My hot fly was a **black beadhead UV flash wooly bugger size 10**. Richard used a multitude of flies but also did a **balance leech shad** fly under an indicator and had excellent results. Jennifer had consistent luck with a **small green/white clouser**. Jennifer and I used 6 weight rods and Richard had a 7 weight rod, both floating and full sinking lines were used."

SWYC Juniors Fishing Program will resume this summer, June 22 and August 3rd. Volunteers are needed to help with fly tying and casting instruction. More details to follow in the next Indicator, or contact Bruce Harris [email](#)

Join us for another **Fly Tie at Bay Park Fish Company**, July 16th!
Contact Kai [here](#) for more details.

Lindsay Szofran is going to the World Championship for Fly Fishing Norway to represent the USA!

The Women's team is 0% funded by the organization, while the men's team is 100% funded (the injustice is sickening). For this reason, she had to start a [GoFundMe](#) because she is a guide and can't afford to not only pay for the trip but also not be guiding to pay the bills. You can find her GoFundMe info on the SDFP Facebook page. This is an opportunity to support a fellow female fly fisher!

Our **women's program** is in need of gently used fly tying vices and tools. If you have any gear you no longer use, please contact Brooke Sargent: [Women's Programs](#)

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 *Funny 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, notes, tips, etc., to be shared on this page.

Editor: editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Happenings

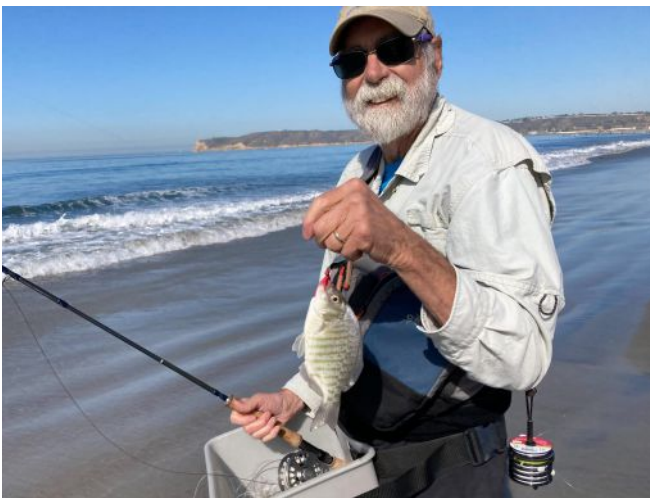
Club Outing, Saturday May 14th Dog Beach, Coronado



Tim bombs a double haul out to the spotfin!



Beautiful young women are inexplicably attracted to old guys with white beards who hang out at the beach early in the morning.



The crafty veteran pulls one in!



Leslie, John, Tim, Kai, Brooke, and Mr. Ed make up the ranks of the fishless but joyful!

**Come join us next trip, June 18 at Lake Henshaw,
or June 24 at Lake Barrett!**
Contact us at outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Feature Article

By Erik Helgeson

Hat Creek

The big brown was sitting in a small eddy created by an area in the steep bank...

A few weeks ago, a couple days before heading back down to San Diego to get married (to a beautiful Burney gal whom I met through the owner of Clearwater Lodge), I spent a couple hours on Hat Creek.



I started the day walking down the trail to Honey Hole 3, seeing a few bugs in the air along the way. I got into the water just upstream and waited for any fish to show. After several minutes, with only a few PMDs on the water, I noticed a few rises downstream. I worked my way down, but unfortunately there just weren't enough bugs to get the few fish I saw to come up. At this point I had a couple options, keep throwing my PMD emerger over where I saw a fish rise, hoping he'll think there's a bigger hatch on, or just keep moving downstream. So, I moved downstream toward HH 4.

where I saw a fish rise, hoping he'll think there's a bigger hatch on, or just keep moving downstream. So, I moved downstream toward HH 4.



The run between HH3 down to HH4 has been getting better the last few years, all about the weed beds, I think. There is a bit of cut bank river right and sometimes there will be a nice fish rising right against the bank. The cast to the bank is tricky, it's long and there are several currents. I've only managed to get one fish to rise there, although I keep trying. That day, not much going on so I continued slowly down the middle of the stream to HH4, casting on either side as I went. When I got across from HH4 I waited, hoping the big fish that live near there would be lining up in the feeding lane. But again, not enough bugs. As I waited at HH4, the sun came out and after another 15 minutes or so, a few more PMDs were on the water, the Beasts of HH4 were not impressed. I got out the stream and took the trail down to HH5.

HH5 is one of the most reliable spots on the whole stream, the way the stream curves from HH4 pushes a lot of bugs into HH5, so even if there are only a few bugs on the water, you're likely to find rising fish at HH5.

I eased into the water, moving through the muck to get to solid stream bottom, looking for rises. There were a few, but none of the rise forms looked like they came from big fish. I move closer, watching, waiting. After several minutes, nothing interesting, however I did see a large bubble floating down against the bank. I thought nothing of it at first, but a few minutes later I saw another. I turned my head upstream a little and focused on the far bank. Sure enough, a big head came out, ate a PMD, and left a large bubble.

Feature Article, cont.

The fish was 100 feet or so upstream so I began moving up, watching as best I could. It took several minutes to get into decent casting position, and I waited for him to show again. He did. I had a PMD Emerger on so I threw it out, mended, and let it float through. He wasn't interested in the emerger. He came out and ate another dun, so I switched to a dun. I already had the distance measured, so I threw the dun out and sure enough, he ate it. The fight went on for several minutes, ranging down past HH5, with me holding the rod as far above my head as I could in an attempt to keep his head up and out of the weeds. I finally landed him, though he didn't fit into the net too well. See photo dated 20220401. I walked him back upstream, reviving him as we went, and released him as close to his holding spot as I could.

The day before yesterday, I basically did the same routine. Although this time, I waded from HH4 to HH5, looking intensely at the far bank.

The run between HH4 that curves down to HH5 has been improving also. There is a cut bank above a grassy area on the River Left side that then rises to a steep cliff above with a few undercuts and stream bed areas of white, diatomaceous earth. There are enough weeds filling in to bring a few nice fish to the area.

I moved slowly, watching. When I got across from the spot the big brown had been a few weeks ago I stopped. Nothing. There was a fish rising in the middle of the stream just below, so without moving I cast to him, still keeping an eye on the spot. After a few fruitless casts, right along the sightline beyond my fly, I saw a big yellow mouth eat a PMD. I began the move into casting position.

The big brown was sitting in a small eddy created by an area in the steep bank that was a little bit cut out, maybe two feet wide and 5 feet long. The stream bottom was white, diatomaceous earth, making it easy to see where he

was. Just upstream a bush hung a couple feet over the stream.

I made a few gauging casts, a cautious step forward, and I was still a foot and a half away from the fish's feeding lane. I pulled a little more line out, threw a curve to the right cast, and hung up in the bush just above the fish. That fish was well protected, I didn't see a way of getting a fly in his feeding lane without it dragging. As I tied on a new tippet, and a new fly, I noticed that every few minutes, he'd take a PMD a little further out, more in the current, away from the little eddy he was holding in. It was as if he had a routine, like you see at Manzanita Lake sometimes where a fish will follow a certain route while feeding. So I waited for him to come out, curved my fly out, and just as it passed him he altered his route back to the bank, came back around and ate it. Again, a fight of several minutes down past HH5, holding the rod up high, he came to net.

So, are they the same fish? Both browns, a little over 20", with two prominent black spots on their left side gill covers. I did walk the fish back upstream before releasing him, maybe he'll be there again in a couple weeks when I get back from my latest San Diego trip.



Match the Hatch

Planned Trips 2022

June 4-11

Estero Coyote, Baja Sur!

- June 18 Lake Henshaw Shorepounders
- June 24 Barrett Lake! (see sdff website)
- July 9 Bayside Park
- August 13 North Torrey Pines Shorepounders
- September 1-4 Stillwater Montana unguided,
(Arrangements with Huckaby)
- September 4-7 Stillwater Montana guided
- October 22 Lake Cuyamaca
- November Shelter Island
- December Otay Lakes



**Ask Kai about
a custom mug!**



For more information contact [Kai Schumann](#)

or look for details in *The Indicator*.

Questions? Contact us at outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Fly of the Month

The Balanced Leech

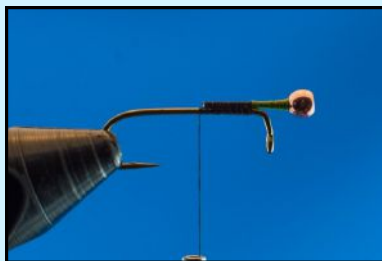


One of the recommended flies for Barrett Lake!

The idea behind a balanced leech is quite simple really. The goal is to present a leech in a more natural manner by having it hang horizontally in the water column opposed to vertically. When the fly is tied in by the eye the tail will naturally want to fall and the leech will not appear as natural as it could. To achieve the better presentation a jig hook will be used and a pushpin to balance the fly when it is suspended in the water. This is usually fished under an indicator and the color options are endless! This is not easy to understand without pictures, so let's get to it!

Recipe

Hook: Daiichi 4647 Jig Hook #8-12
Thread: Danville's 70 Denier Flymaster Waxed Thread
Bead: Metz Tungsten Beads : sizing depends on hook
Tail: Senyo's Fusion Dub – Various Color Options or STS Trilobal Dubbing – Various Color Options
Body: Senyo's Fusion Dub – Various Color Options or STS Trilobal Dubbing – Various Color Options
Extension: Push Pin – clipped for desired presentation



Step 4, demonstrating what makes this leech "balanced"

Tying Instructions click [HERE](#)

To Join the **Thursday Night Fly Tying Congress** Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm [Click Here](#)

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2022

Sunday fly casting instruction 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 SDFP membership in 2022. 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: Activity continues with clinics at Mission Bay on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.



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

Conservation & Education



Golden Trout Trip June 23 –26, 2022

Once again this year we are planning our volunteer conservation and fishing trip into the Golden Trout Wilderness June 23-26. This is our biggest conservation effort each year. We take a dozen or two hardy volunteers on a two-mile hike into Casa Vieja Meadow where we work as USFS volunteers erecting a barbed wire and electric fence designed to keep grazing cattle away from Nine Mile Creek that runs through the meadow. We always plan time for fishing and almost everyone catches fish. My 10-year-old grandson caught 15 golden trout on his first trip with a fly rod so this is a good place for beginners. Most of these beautiful trout are small but each trip we catch a few up to 14 inches.

We camp at the Blackrock Trailhead above Kennedy Meadows in Sequoia National Forest. It is a narrow but paved road all the way and many of us sleep in our vehicles or small RVs, but there are prepared tent sites. We set up a group kitchen and share meal preparation duties. The site is above 9,000 ft so it can be cold or rainy and some folks have trouble sleeping at that altitude if they have breathing issues. The trail into the meadow is well prepared but steep. We only carry small day packs so most folks find the daily hike up out of the meadow strenuous but doable. We allow plenty of time for hiking at your own pace. This is a family friendly event, but only recommended for children 10 or older with some hiking experience.

If this event interests you, please contact me with this link: [Gary Strawn](#)

USFS places a limit on the number of volunteers we can have in the Wilderness so please sign up early.

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

Women's Program

June is Women's Fly Fishing Month!

Slay the Bay, April 30th

A beautiful day at Mission Bay was enjoyed by a group of ladies who attended the SDFF Women's Outing, 'Slay the Bay'. Tossing clousers and shrimps, a ray and a halibut were caught. Two ladies who had never fished the bay before join us, which is always exciting! We also had a visitor from New Jersey, Sue, who took one morning of her San Diego vacation just to fish with us! Thanks Sue, we'll miss you!



Cherie, Beverly, Sue, Vikki, Lesley S, Jen, Leslie O, Brooke, and Kim E!



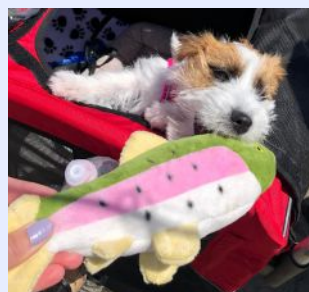
Newbies to the bay, Leslie and her son Ryan, joined us all the way from the IE!



Kim E showing off her home-made stripping basket!



Enjoying the Bay!



Cherie's new puppy, Happy, was in the spirit of fishing!

Questions or suggestions for activities and events in 2022!
Contact 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.

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



Direct link the [SWCFFI](#) web page!

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.

The **SDFF** is affiliated with the **Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International**
[John Wylie](#), Representative
For more information or to join FFI visit: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

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**



Questions? [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)

**Past Due Members: Alan will be
"contacting" you soon to help you
with the renewal process!**

Renewing your membership (or your family's) is simple.

Click here to [Join](#) then follow the instructions.

Volunteers 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**, please consider helping out. No volunteers, no fundraiser!

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 Fly-fishers. 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!



One of Mel's flycasting students on his first trip!



Debbie with a big-shouldered bass from Barrett!



Mark with a feisty Tulum Tarpon!



Lucky is back on the water in his new rig!

Please send us a picture from your trip! Sandiegoflyfishers.com

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](#)

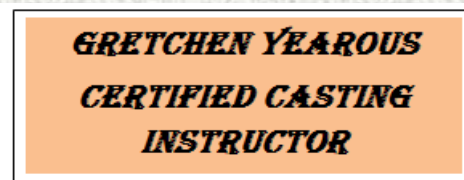
[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)



And if you're ever in Alaska...

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 2022

James Castelluzzo	President
Vice President	vacant
Andrea Rae	Treasurer
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Jack Duncan	Rod Building
Lucky Ketcham	Fly Tying Congress
Lee McElravy	Project Healing Waters
	Web Master
David Collins	Internet Resources Admin

The Indicator

Emailed twice a month
with updates and break-
ing 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](#)

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 true tale, humbly submitted by your editor:

On a cold morning last March, my son and I were getting ready to fish the Lower Owens with Jason Christian, one of the young guns guiding out of Mammoth Lakes. He dutifully copied our license information in a logbook as we shifted awkwardly getting in our waders and leaving man-on-the-moon-boot prints in the chalky dust of the parking area.

"Make sure your hooks are barbless. A warden was checking here yesterday." I wasn't too worried about the legality of my hook points as I was going to be using his flies. Heck, I wasn't even going to tie them on. Such is the beauty of hiring a guide.

I have been fishing in California since the 1960's. I remember catching a bluegill back when Reagan was governor, the Padres were minor leaguers, and the Beatles still wore matching suits, and I recall that great rite of passage: buying my first fishing license. If memory serves me right (and it doesn't always these days), the cost was less than ten bucks for an ocean permit, and you paid extra for a stamp, which was a little more expensive, if you wanted to fish freshwater. Practically free by today's standards.

Anyway, on this morning my son and I followed Jason into and out of the river, picking up a few trout here and there, mostly subsurface because the awesome surface action from previous days (when that bastard Huckaby was there—of course) did not materialize, as is so often the case. But as the day progressed, a steady number of fish came to the net allowing for a general feeling of contentment: The birds were chirping, cold water murmured through the reeds, the pungent sent of sage and moist earth permeated the warming air. It was almost noon when I was surprised by a strange voice.

"Hi, how are we doing today?"

It was an officer of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. His tone was pleasant and his question was directed at Jason, whom he evidently recognized as a guide.

"Pretty good, not really on them yet, but we're getting a few."

"Can I check your flies?"

And so the man in the khaki uniform carefully inspected the tandem of puny nymphs tethered to our leaders. They all passed as legally barbless.

"And can I see your licenses please?"

My son quickly had his displayed while I fumbled with the contents of my chest wader pocket: keys, sunglasses, lip balm, granola bar, bottle opener, pretty much everything I could carry but no license.

"Ah, I know I've got it here somewhere..." sounding more like I was trying to convince myself.

"Yeah, he showed it to me this morning, sir" offered Jason.

But the officer just patiently waited for me to produce the document, seemingly in no hurry to move on and find the real criminals that were surely plying the waters somewhere downstream.

"I have a sling pack I usually wear when I'm on the water. It must be in there, back at the truck where we parked this morning." This answer was in itself insufficient to remedy the situation.

"Okay" he said, "I can walk there with you."

This guy seemed to have a lot of time on his hands. Of course, the five minute walk felt to me like the longest mile. I've heard that game wardens can be short on small talk and strict on the letter of the law. But he was congenial, listening as I nervously made conversation. And of course when we got to the truck, and I emptied my sling pack, my license was nowhere to be found.

"What are you wearing under those waders?"

Now at the time that seemed like a really odd question bordering on downright cringy, I mean, I've seen "Deliverance" and... of course, the license was in by pants pocket, buried beneath a wet layer of Gor-Tex, not where I usually keep it. I don't usually have to pull it out of the sling pack because... who ever asks to see it?

The officer politely reminded me that it was my responsibility to have it on my person while fishing, and he resisted the temptation to call me what I later called myself: "Dumbass."

