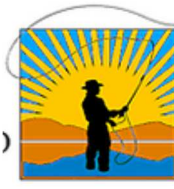


# FINNY FACTS



**Archive Version**

## San Diego Fly Fishers

**May 2018**

Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing **Volume 41 No. 5**

**SDFF Casting Clinic and BBQ**  
**May 7th, 2018 @ Tidelands Park**

**Casting Lesson:** Starts @ 3:00 pm  
 Certified Casting Instructors Dayle Mazarella, John Adametz & Gretchen Yearous conduct a casting clinic



**BBQ:** Starts @ 6:00 pm  
 BBQ with all of the trimmings compliments of the the following chefs:  
 Lee McElravy,  
 Paul Woolery,  
 Lew Walsh, Jack Duncan, Barry Pechersky, Sherry

Ashbaugh and Gary Strawn & Steve Visser.

**Menu:**  
 Hamburgers, Brats, Sautéed Peppers & Onions, Sauerkraut, Baked beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Cookies, Water

**Cost:** SDFF Sponsored but volunteer contributions appreciated at the BBQ (suggested \$20/pp)

**Invitees:** Active members of San Diego Fly Fishers and Golden State Flycasters.

**Location:** Tidelands Park, Coronado California.

\*\*Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the park. If you prefer any other beverage besides bottled water then BYOB.

\*\*\*Voluntary contributions appreciated @ the BBQ.

Sitting Chairs and headlamps (bring your own)





**May Schedule**

Every Thursday– Fly Tying at San Carlos Recreation Center 6:30-8:00

May 1st– Open Classroom– Santee Lakes 12 noon-3pm  
 Fly Tying, Casting and Fishing

May 15th--Open Classroom– Santee Lakes 12 noon-3pm  
 Fly Tying, Casting and Fishing

*Thanks for the generous Support.*



**Quick Notes from the Editor:**

**Don't Forget– Annual Fundraiser Next Month at Southwestern Yacht Club**

- Purchase \$100.00 of raffle tickets and get 1 book FREE.
- Lightly used donations are appreciated.

More information on page 4.

Cal-Trout has released an article about Shasta Lake and raising the level. Read it at:  
<https://mailchi.mp/caltrout/n0vmy921io-1328485?e=057031ef02>


**Don't forget to submit your stories and pictures for publication. See the deadline information below.**

Cut-off date for the **June Finny Facts** is **Friday, May 11th, 2018.**  
 Send submissions to Alan Thompson at [finnyfacts@gmail.com](mailto:finnyfacts@gmail.com)

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**Next Program**  
**Casting and BBQ at Tidelands Park**  
 Monday, May 7 2018



President's Message  
May 2018

Fellow fly casters...I have to ask, how many of you are now a "new" owner of a Tenkara Fly Rod? I admit, a strong message was planted last month. Those of you who could not make the April meeting, missed a great presentation.

The last few days have been very busy for our club. Project Healing Waters with our Vets, the Intermediate Fly Tying Class, the Boy Scout Fair, and I just returned from another, very successful, Day at the Docks. All of these events provided an opportunity for you to be an "active" member of the club. What did you miss?

Have you sent in your ticket stubs, with \$\$, for our June Fund-

raiser? The items gathering for this event continue to excite me. I/you will want extra chances to take home these extra fine fly fishing items. Send in those stubs.

Our May meeting will be held at Tideland Park. Folks, Fly Casting Clinic, fishing, Barbecue, and an opportunity to socialize as a Fly Fishing Club. See you all at Tidelands.

I will have sign-up sheets for our upcoming, joint projects with the Arizona Fly Casters. So looking forward to see who will take advantage of these "fishing" events.

I will have another after action report on another event with the Boy Scouts...very soon.

Tight lines,  
Larry



**The Indicator  
E-mailed  
Containing:  
Updates;  
late breaking  
Information;  
and  
Timely reminders**

**Don't Forget**  
Time to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers for 2018.

**Fly Tying Congress  
Every Thursday 6:30-8:30 PM**

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at San Carlos Recreation Center at 6445 Lake Badin Ave. in San Diego. Instruction to create your own fly is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

**DIRECTIONS**--From Interstate 8 take the Lake Murray off-ramp and drive toward Lake Murray. Travel on Lake Murray Blvd. for 1.6 miles and turn left at Lake Adlon Drive (1st corner past Jackson Drive). Go three blocks and the Recreation Center will be on your right.

**SAN DIEGO**



**FLY FISHERS**

# **ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

**June 4th, 2018 at 6 PM  
Southwestern Yacht Club  
2702 Qualtrough St,  
San Diego, CA 92106**



**Fly tiers...See you at the June Fund Raiser.  
This is but a “mere” sample of what will be available.**

# Special Notifications

**THE EVENT OF THE YEAR IS APPROACHING!!!!**

**WHAT: SDFG GALA FUNDRAISER JUNE 4TH @ 7pm (First Drawing)**

**WHERE: THE SOUTHWEST YACHT CLUB ON POINT LOMA**

Your fundraising committee has preparations well underway for the annual night of fun and winning. We are expecting to exceed by a long measure, the number and quality of items that were in last year's event.

Our goal is to have each of our more than 200 members to spend \$100 supporting this event. There are many ways to help us achieve our goal: Purchase General Raffle Tickets, Win Silent Auction items and participate in the Special Raffles. Again, this year we will Not be holding a Live Auction. This saves time and helps make higher value items attainable for all by providing a chance to win a Special Raffle

**You should have received your pre-event raffle tickets. Please inform us if you did not receive your ticket packets in the mail.** You can mail your completed ticket stubs in the pre-addressed envelope or simply bring them to the May meeting.

**REMEMBER...Buy \$100 worth of ticket and get a bonus book free.**

Buy early and avoid the big line on the night of the event!

We are still accepting gear donations. Items that are in "Like New" condition only please. We are unable to accept books or magazines.

Please contact **Mike Gilroy**

## Upper Otay Lake Update

Wanted to share some information regarding famed Upper Otay lake. Many Club members remember his lake for excellent bass fishing and as the site where Florida strain Largemouth Bass were first introduced to California. In 2014 a fish kill was reported by fisherman and the fishery all but disappeared.

I live nearby the lake and have been hiking around it for the past three years and have never seen a rising fish. This promoted me to reach out to different officials who are responsible for the lake to gather facts about the health of the lake and fishery. I learned that they had been unable to confirm the reported fish kill but planned to "shock" the lake, take water samples and observe of the indicators to see what was going on. I expressed my interest in this effort to see if a viable habitat improvement project might exist for our Club to help restore the lake.

In 2017 Staff from the City of San Diego



Upper Otay Lake in the distance March 2018

and California Dept of Fish and Wildlife performed a survey of Upper Otay. While the "shock" equipment failed, gill nets were deployed to sample fish in the lake. Sadly, the results showed the lake is in serious trouble. Oxygen levels are very low and will not sustain fish (other than Carp). According to Russell Black (CAFW), no fish were caught in the gill nets and no fishing eating birds were ob-

served on the lake. Bullfrogs were heard but not seen (This suggests that other than the depleted oxygen levels, the lake is healthy).

So, what's next? Likely nothing. The lake has no power infrastructure to drive an aeration system and the costs would likely be very significant. I am in the process of reaching out to the City of San Diego staff to learn more, but I expect that restoring the lake is a very low priority for the City. My hope is to see if there is a

viable solution that the City, DWF and the Club might be able to develop that would result in a restored healthy lake and fishery. Stay tuned.

*Submitted by Mike Gilroy*

## Strike Indicators for Bay Fishing By Craig Smith

I admit it, I like fishing bobbers. For me, there is some sort of thrill that comes from seeing a bobber dip below the surface, pulled down by a fish fooled by my offering. It also takes me briefly back to my youth, fishing for panfish with worms or minnows suspended under bobber.

Although a fly fishing strike indicator can be any sort of item or contrasting color that is on or part of your fly line and leader system, the most common indicators are variants of traditional bobbers (I like to refer to them as “bobicators”). The use of strike indicators is commonly associated with trout fishing in streams and lakes, but they can be used in other situations and for other species as well. Though rarely used in saltwater fishing, in fact I have seen no other writings on the use of floating indicators in saltwater fishing, there is an application for their use on our local bays.

Aside from providing a visual indication that a fish has been fooled by your offering, an indicator can be used for other purposes when angling our bays. The principle use is to employ a floating indicator, essentially a bobber, to suspend a fly so that can go no deeper than the distance between the indicator and the fly. This can be a useful tactic when fishing in shallow water where a sinking line will have you on the bottom in no time unless you use a fast retrieve. Sometime even the fastest retrieve you can manage won't keep your fly off the bottom. You set the indicator so that the fly, when suspended vertically below the indicator, is right off the bottom or the top of the eel grass. When the fly is directly below the indicator, you can reach depths in the 4 to 8 foot range that are otherwise very difficult to reach with a floating line. In shallower water you can keep your fly off the bottom. Unlike when fishing midge pupae or nymphs under an indicator in a lake for trout, when fishing in the bays you do want to retrieve the line after making your cast. By making a slow, stop and go retrieve, the fly will move up and down in the water column seductively as it gets closer to you. The longer and faster you make each pull on the retrieve, the higher in the water column the fly will move. The longer you pause, the deeper the fly will fall. When using this technique, it pays to vary the retrieve to see what works. Don't forget to keep your eyes on the indicator and set the hook when it dives under.

This is one method of subsurface fishing where the strip set is less effective. That is because the angle created by the fly hanging from the indicator means you do not have a straight-line connection to the fly. So, you need to pull the slack out to set the hook. I keep my rod tip pointed at the indicator. When it goes under I set by rapidly lifting the rod while simultaneously pulling with the line hand. This is effectively combining a trout type set with a strip set in the same motion. Do keep your hooks sharp. Our local saltwater fish have harder mouths than trout. Because the rod bends with setting the hook, it is more difficult to get a good hook set and dull hooks will work against you.

The ideal indicators to use are large, buoyant indicators like Thingamabobbers, Under-cators, or large foam indicators that are easy to reposition on the leader. It is best to use an indicator large enough to suspend your fly, but its ok if the indicator is pulled under a bit by the weight of the fly.



Flies tied on jig hooks tend to work a bit better since the fly tend to ride a bit more horizontal. Large balanced leach patterns are great. My personal preference is for flies tied on jig hooks or mini lead head jigs such as Wapsi Super Jig Heads in the 1/48 and 1/32 ounce sizes. The Wapsi Super Jig Heads have a molded lead head. The image shows a fly at top tied on a Wapsi Super Jig Head, and on the bottom a fly tied on a #4 Eagle Claw EC-413 60-degree jig hook (Tiemco U506 is a good substitute). Flies that have a lot of built in motion that give them the appearance of something living with little imparted motion seem to work better than flies that are a bit more rigid in their construction. My favorite all around fly for the bay is the

Clouser Deep Minnow but it seems less effective using this technique than some of my own creations. The two flies shown in the image are examples of the type of pattern I like to use under an indicator. The bodies are constructed from home-made dubbing brushes that have a lot of thin rubber or silicone strips to create legs along with course dubbing material. Those legs quiver with the slightest movement and just look like something alive.

A floating 7, 8, or 9 weight floating line will help cast these heavier flies and an indicator. I recommend going up one or two line sizes from your rod's rating if using a rod lighter than a 7 weight. For example, I usually use a 7 or 8 weight floating line on a 6 weight rod for indicator fishing in the bay because I found the 6 weight line didn't carry the fly and indicator rig well.

A level leader up to 9 feet long made from 8 to 12 pound test monofilament work fine. Some indicators are difficult to keep in place on thinner leader material. If this is a problem for you, create a thicker 2 to 3 foot butt section from heavier mono and attach the rest of the thinner leader to that using your favorite connection. The indicator can then be attached to the butt section. Tapered leaders can be used too. They don't sink as fast as level leaders and the heavy butt section can prevent the fly from hanging vertically below the indicator, but just about any indicator will hold well on the butt section.

This technique is best used in water 8 feet deep or less over eel grass beds. I have had the best success used in water from 3 to 6 feet deep. There are extensive areas of both San Diego Bay and Mission Bay that fit these parameters, depending on the level of the tide. It works best when employed from a boat, kayak, or even float tube, but it can also be used from rock rip rap like jetties or beach areas adjacent to suitable depth areas. We have found this method primarily effective for spotted bay bass but have taken croaker, corvina, and halibut while using it. If you fish shallow water in the bay frequently I encourage you to give the indicator method a try; you might find it fun

**BARRETT FISHING CONDITIONS ARE TECHNICAL**  
**Media Report April 2018 By Gretchen Yearous**



I had the pleasure of Lucky Ketchum, another longtime Barrett flyfisher, joining me on April 16, 2018 for the privilege of participating in the Barrett media pre-fish activity. SDFE was honored to have been approved again this year. We basically did reconnaissance for all who line up by 5:00 a.m. to enjoy the coveted fish population of Barrett Lake. This is a catch and release only, barbless hook, artificial lure lake that was San Diego's breed lake for Northern strain of largemouth bass and was closed to the public till 1994.

**The water is still pea green** due to an algae bloom that hit the lake in February. The wind has stacked up dense sheets of floating green gunk in some bays. The water temp. was 62-64 degrees, very poor visibility, 75 % full. **No projections available as to when the water will clear.** The road was in poor condition; but was in process of being repaired while we were there. The water level is a little higher than when I last fished June 2017 with parking being the same on the boatdock side. Pigs point has barely one, maybe 2 spots for parking at the launch cove. Be



prepared to carry all your gear down and up the one lane road. We took a more casual approach - in the gate at 7:00 a.m., first fly in the water around 8:00 and back to the dock around 3:30.

So..... **How was the fishing? Difficult and strategic.** This color of water required the use of highly contrasting colored flies to green water, flies with plenty of motion, and/or make noise; attractors; but nothing green. I had success with my Clacker fly, the black Orvis Rubber Bugger, and the little gray mop fly (bluegill candy). Lucky settled on the Brim Fly tied with bright colors designed to create motion all fished with sinking line systems. Baitfish and dumb-bell clouser patterns didn't work. **No top-water action seen.** Check out Lucky's facebook page for more pictures. A more varied list of flies will be helpful later in the season when the water gets more normal. Follow more reports on <https://sdfish.com/forums/f/barrett-lake/>.



No results here and there in the main bay so we moved to Becky's cove to examine that. We had to fish the opening Becky Cove point due to the sheets of gunk in the back of the cove. Lucky fished from shore on the point and I tubed in behind the island away from the wind and on my 3<sup>rd</sup> fly change, finally got huge aggressive bluegill bending the flyrod down to the water. More followed. **No takes on the drop. Had to really work the fly to get takers.** Then Bruce Smith (another flyfisher) motored over and told us he got nothing in the favorite spots in the back of Hauser early morning. Sooooo - since Hauser is a wider, more windy shallow arm, we moved over into the narrower, deeper Pine Arm and found slightly clearer water around



11:30. I fished the shrub lines and Lucky took the rocky points and got into more bass at that structure type than I did. Bring lots of flies for shrub snags. **What fish we caught were big and healthy.** The bass were jumpers and big (17 inches here) the bluegill (11 inchers) were fighting harder than any I had ever caught. **Our total netted boat count was 13 bass caught plus several escaped jumpers and 18 bluegill plus lost ones.** Our numbers were abysmal compared to the usual years; but we were grateful to have found the successful flies with limited site choices. **Our strike zones were 6 to 8'.** **No nesting activity seen.** Bass were a little further out. Big bluegill were in and outside the shrubs. We closed out with a short stint in Pig Cove launch bay. Only the rocky point provided a couple of bass. Nothing in the cove.

# SDFF Outreach Programs and Supports



BSA Scout Fair with members from San Diego Fly Fishing and Golden State Flycasters-*left*- Rich Strobel great having a time; *right*- Rich DeBusk teaching knots to a scout. *Below from left*- Frank Beatty, Lucky Ketchem, Larry Sorensen Sheri Mehl, Norb Spritzer, Ray Mehl busy instructing Scouts in tying flies. Missing from the pictures but helping to teach casting outside were; Steve Piper, Don Smith, and Denver Brownlee.



SDFF members toured Hubbs-Sea World Research facility at Mission Bay and viewed their California Halibut and Yellowtail programs. *Left*- group picture after the tour. *Right*- A giant California Halibut basking. **YOUR CONSERVATION DOLLARS SUPPORTS THIS FACILITY.**



## Eastern Sierra Report from Sierra Drifters

Fish'N Conditions 4/14/18

Spring storms continue to keep the air temps cooler than normal, with snow, & windy conditions moving through the area every 3-5 days. The cooler air temps have been positive with regards to run-off. Most of the regions year around waters have dropped from the swollen levels we saw last week. "Catching" has been so-so; due in part to the moody weather pattern, & cooler temps.

East Walker continues to fish well during good weather. Take advantage of the lower/stable flows while you can. BWO and midge hatches daily. Lots of eager chunky rainbows in the deeper riffles!

The Middle Owens has dropped to 300cfs. Wading can be difficult; but drift boat conditions have improved considerably with these stable levels.

Hot Creek can be a good option for moving water enthusiasts, thanks to a decrease in water levels. The windy weather has impacted hatches during the stormy periods; but solid BWO, & midge activity will

give you dry fly opportunities afternoon during warmer/calm days.

Upper Owens has improved water conditions recently. Levels are on the high side; but nothing heavier weights can't solve. A few large Crowley migrants are holding over, with decent numbers of smaller rainbows, & browns around as filler fish. Good BWO and midge pops on the nicer days. Cutty's are still scarce due to cooler conditions. Roads are still muddy in some locations after the ground thaws.

Power generation will be sporadic at Pleasant Valley Reservoir making it tough to fish the river and transition section. Tubing is your best shot at a good day using full sinks and streamers. Lake level has dropped this week allowing good access near the inlet section.

The general trout opener is on 4/28/18. Crowley Lake, Bridgeport Reservoir, Twin Lakes Bridgeport, Convict Lake, & the June Lake Loop will all have ice free conditions and good access. Road closures for locations above 8000 remain likely

due to heavy March snows, and a wet April.

We anticipate good early season "catching" on Crowley & Bridgeport Reservoirs. I have seen some large chironomids (midges) emerging already. The lakes have remained ice free for most of winter, & water levels are nearing capacity. With higher flows expected on most moving waters, the larger lakes will be the best option for early season success. The cutthroat trout migrations on the Upper Owens and McGee Creek have not begun yet in substantial numbers. This dynamic can change suddenly, especially under current conditions.



## Future Event





## Funny Page



"Yes, we stock tape measures. Do you want the angler's model or the accurate?"



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S DEEP? IT'S NOT EVEN UP TO MY ANKLES."

### Catching fish at Pyramid Lake

Bottom left– Bruce Bechard with his 27 inch cutthroat fishing with guide Joe Contaldi  
bottom right– Alan Thompson with his smaller cutt

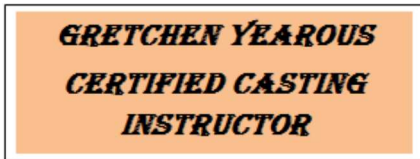


FREE CASTING LESSONS  
EVERY SUNDAY starting at 9 AM

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. Make a left and continue to the parking lot next to the boat dock. We are to the immediate right of docks under the large cabana. See you there!

# 2017 Fundraiser Sponsors

*A special thank you to our Sponsors . Please Support them with your business*



**San Diego Fly Fishers  
2018 Directors**

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 Sherry Ashbaugh..... **1st Vice-President**  
 ..... **Media Coordinator**  
 Bruce Harris ..... **Treasurer**  
 Mark Hedderson..... **Secretary**  
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 Fred Gregory..... **At Large**  
 Lee McElravy .... **Project Healing Waters**  
 Jeremy Ramberg **SWC-FFI Club Liaison**  
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**IGFA Contact**

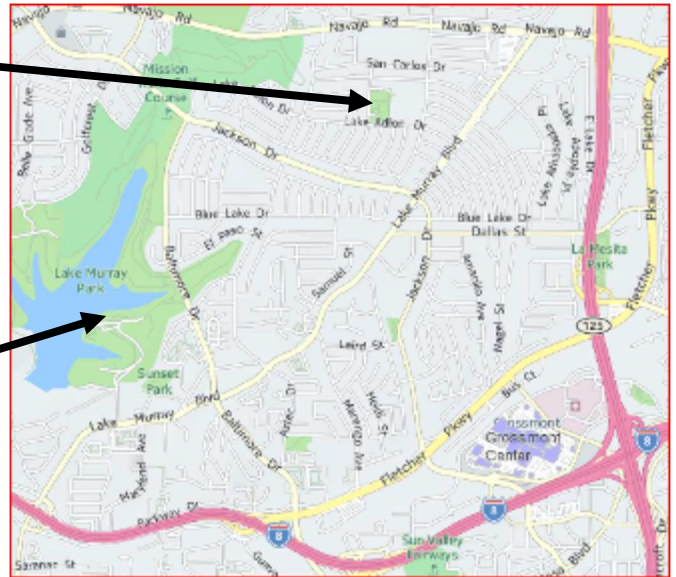
Wesley Woll  
 675 S. Sierra Ave. Unit 25  
 Solana Beach, CA 92075  
 858-481-6386 858-395-9479 cell

**Fly Tying Congress**  
 Thursdays 6:30-8:30

San Carlos Rec. Ctr.  
 6445 Lake Badin Ave.  
 San Diego, CA 92119

**Fly Casting Clinic**  
 Every Sunday 9 to noon.

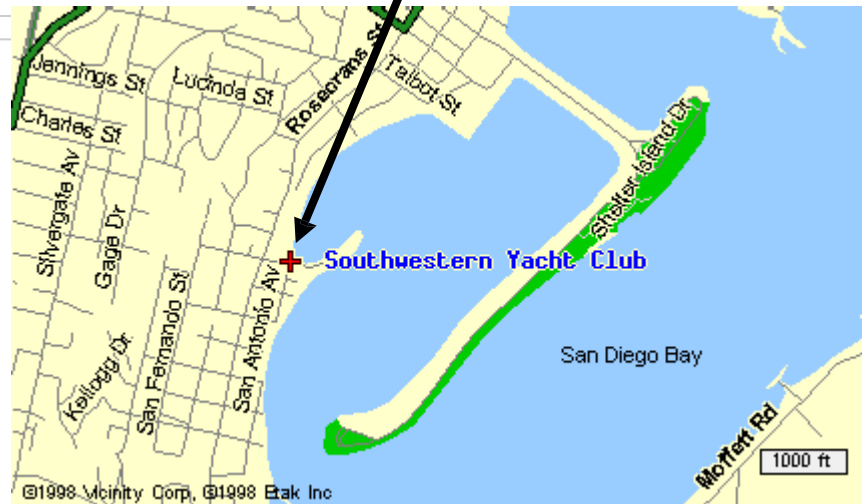
Lake Murray  
 Kiowa Dr.  
 San Diego, CA 92119



**Monthly Programs**

First Monday  
 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Southwestern Yacht Club**  
 2702 Qualtrough Street  
 San Diego, CA 92106



**Affiliate Club of the  
 Fly Fishers International**

**Since 1962**

**Directions from Highway 8 (traveling West) or Interstate 5 (traveling South)**

Take Rosecrans exit West to Owen Street  
 Turn Left on Owen Street, drive 1 block to San Antonio  
 Turn Left on San Antonio, drive 2 blocks  
 Turn right onto Qualtrough and follow to SWYC entryway at end of street.

**Southwestern Yacht Club**  
 2702 Qualtrough Street  
 San Diego, CA 92106  
 (619)222-0438