

# FINNY FACTS

March 2022

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

Volume 45 No. 03

## March Club Meeting

*Back in Person at SWYC!*

**Monday, March 7th, 7:00 pm**

with guest

***Bob Clouser***

*(Bob's presentation carried live via zoom at SWYC)*



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](#)

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# President's Message



**Jim Castelluzzo**  
**March, 2022**

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

**Gone Fishing!**  
**See you at the club on March 7th!**

# Zoom!

## Speaker Program

# Join us!

Monday, March 7th, 7:00 pm

**Bob Clouser**

**Our March club meeting will be in person at the Southwestern Yacht Club**

Bob will be joining us via zoom live on screen.

[Zoom link](#)



Bob Clouser, creator of The original Clouser Deep Minnow evolved from traditional bucktail streamers and was created in 1987 by Bob Clouser, a Pennsylvania fly shop owner and guide. The original patterns were intended for smallmouth bass on the Susquehanna River. The name Clouser Deep Minnow was coined by Lefty Kreh, a noted Fly Fishing writer in a 1989 article in Fly Fisherman. Today, the Clouser Deep Minnow is widely used for many species of both fresh and saltwater game fish. Lefty Kreh claims to have caught over 87 species of game fish on Clouser Deep Minnow flies.

*I believe that this pattern is the most important and effective underwater fly developed in the past 20 years. During the past three years I have been able to catch 63 species of fish in fresh and saltwater around the world with this pattern!*

—Lefty Kreh

# Happenings

## **Wednesday** *Saturday* **Bunch, Glorietta Bay**

**By Mel Ochs, February 19**

Ho hum, another beautiful day in paradise! Sunny with no appreciable wind for an extra fishing day on Saturday at Glorietta Bay. I think everyone caught at least a couple fish with both Barry and Jim N. catching small halibut right away. I got three spotties. (And Mark showed up late and caught a baby halibut on his first cast.)

The fish were not as abundant as on Wednesday, with patches seen at 12 and 17 feet, with few up toward the boat slips along the wall. We also went over to the green buoy and found a bunch at 12 feet but they weren't anxious to jump on our hooks! I switched flies over there to red/white/legs (thanks Jennifer) and caught my third one. Don, Barry, Jim N., Jim B., Mark and I were there.

In the absence of Kai's cooking, Don, Barry, Mark and I got our favorite Crown Town Deli sandwiches (The Landing Special was the popular choice) and enjoyed the Coronado sun. (By the look of the tourist crowd, escaping the mid-west winter was high on many people's list!)



Barry, Don, and Mark



Some dude with a halibut



Jennifer's red/white with legs



Mel captures the action



Just a bit short

Please send news, updates, reports, notes, tips, and photos to be shared on this page.

Editor: [editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

## Feature Article

### TRINITY RIVER – JAN 18-23

By Tim Huckaby

Full story and more photos at: [timhuckaby.com](http://timhuckaby.com)

*...when you do get a shot at the “fish of 5,000 casts”, they are long shots because the steelhead is hard to hook and even harder to land. Add to that, most of the time you are setting on a fish that is downstream from you making your odds even worse. Add to that if you are lucky enough to land them it’s typically hundreds of feet, if not yards up or down stream from where you hooked them with herculean head shaking jumps that frequently shake a barbless hook, which means wildly chasing them on foot or in a boat. Who would do that? I would. We would. I can’t wait to do it again.*



## Feature Article, cont.

When Jack Duncan, my buddy from the San Diego Fly Fishers Club, emailed me that he wanted to chase steelhead on the Trinity river in Northern California I replied with a simple "In!" I had fished the Trinity about a decade ago for a single day, and that day the Steelhead Trout lived up to its moniker: "the fish of 5000 casts". I did not get a single take. Since that time, I have been lucky enough to fish steelhead a number of times during my stints up at Microsoft in Redmond, WA where I did do better; mostly on the Olympic Peninsula. But, I had been itching to get back to California steelheading on the Trinity for a long time. Gary Strawn and Paul Woolery from SDFF completed the foursome.

In Steelheading terms we did well. For the two guided days we had, we boated 13 fish. The average steelhead day is hoping for one grab; let alone getting a fish to hand.



*Jack Duncan with a Monster Steelhead*

### The Steelhead

The Steelhead is just a giant rainbow trout. What makes it different from a regular rainbow trout is two things: it's anadromous nature: After maturing, the steelhead travels the river downstream hundreds of miles to the ocean, feeding heavily for a year to three years before entering back into the river it was born in... frequently spawning within a 2 inch radius of where it was originally hatched! There still is no science to explain how the steelhead does it; only conjecture.

The Trinity River Steelhead travel just short of 100 miles up the river to their original spawning grounds. God only knows how far out to sea they go. But, the Steelhead in the Columbia River system can

travel over 800 miles to the Idaho rivers there were born in. 800 miles to spawn in a 2" radius of where they were hatched. Had we not screwed up the environment around a hundred years ago by installing dams (with the incredibly efficient production of hydroelectric power), the steelhead (like the salmon) would still be travelling over 1000 miles to Montana and beyond.

The steelhead gets abnormally huge. Like 3 feet long and over 10 pounds huge. They get abnormally big eating shrimp and fish in the ocean. A wild steelhead that size is difficult to land. They frequently do spectacular jumps combined with runs of over 100 yards in either direction. The steelhead is a fish of lore that has ruined marriages and destroyed finances. I'm not kidding. Once you catch a big wild steelhead it changes your life.

### The Outfitters

I have been lucky enough to use a number of fly fishing guides in my 30+ years of fly fishing. I feel like that is a well spent investment because I have learned so much from guides....and continue to. I have only had one bad guiding experience in that 30+ years. That was the last time I was at the Trinity over a decade ago. "The Fly Shop" in Redding gave us a really hungover, cigarette smoking guide that spent more time throwing up on the river bank, combined with long stints in porta potties than he did fishing with us. You don't judge an outfitter by one guide. So, of course, our first stop after landing in Redding, CA was "The Fly Shop. "The Fly Shop" is the largest fly fishing internet retailer in the world for a reason. Like Costco, you just can't get out of there without dropping a hundred... which we all did.

On Jack's advice we used Confluence Outfitters for the guides on this trip. Jack had used them before. Jack and I fished together both days and Paul and Gary fished together both days. But we alternated the guides (and the river sections):

Luke Geraty 530-526-1918 [lukegeraty@gmail.com](mailto:lukegeraty@gmail.com)

Peter Santley 530-318-7073 [psantley@gmail.com](mailto:psantley@gmail.com)

Luke is a young guide with 2 masters degrees that fished us on the Upper Trinity River. And Peter is a long time guide, very well known who fished us on the lower Trinity River. Both guides were excellent and 13 fish to net is a testament to that. I strongly recommend you contact them if you want to check the California steelhead thing off your bucket list.

## Feature Article, cont.

Using a guide on the Trinity is almost a must. Not just to learn techniques. But, because of the drift boat. Accessing good steelhead holding water is easy with a drift boat. It is quite difficult without one at the Trinity River. So much of the Trinity river is overgrown, on private property, or too deep to wade.

You are either trying to catch a steelhead on their way to spawn or on their way out to the ocean. In both cases because they are on a mission; they are not eating much. You are basically trying to piss them off enough with an artificial to instigate a genetic reaction. There are small (12" to 20") resident steelhead that are too juvenile to head out to the ocean. They call them, "half pounders". They do eat and we did catch a few.

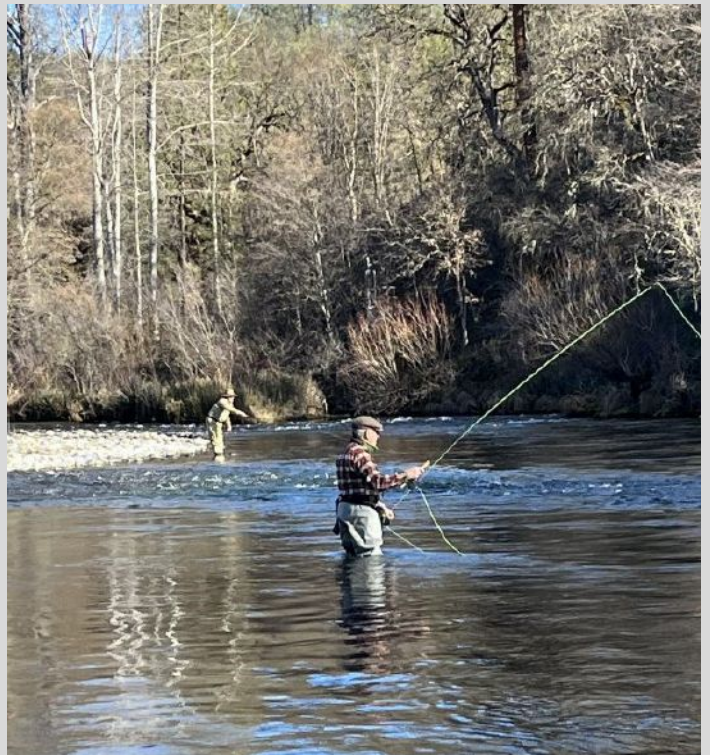
### Techniques for Steelhead

**1. Staring at the Bobber** – 10 to 1 the most effective way to fish for steelhead is under the indicator. Yep, arrogant dry fly dumb asses like me just have to get over the bobber thing. And I did get over it pretty quickly. There is definitely skill involved in casting and getting a good drift on flies that can get 12 feet or even more below the bobber. I examined the way Peter Santley rigged my 10 foot 8 weight Orvis Helios II with an indicator set up and it was quite elaborate. They use a balsa wood indicator that is shaped like a football so that it points down to where your flies are. that helps in mending to get a good drift. That indicator sits between tiny little rubber "bobber stoppers" on a 6 foot section of 20 pound mono. Those bobber stoppers allow for easy adjustment of the indicator to water depth. It allows the guide to adjust the bobber to the depth of the holding water where the steelhead lie resting between runs up or down stream. Below the section of 20 LB is a tippet ring. Tied on the tippet ring is 10 or 12 pound flouro with a small weight attached then the first fly. Below that is 6 lb flouro to the bottom fly. For this trip the typical top fly was a rubber legs or large yellow stone fly nymph. And the bottom fly was a size 14 copper john.

**2. Swinging** – Traditional steelheaders fish streamers. And most of the time on sinking lines or sinking tips. It's called swinging because you cast 45 degrees downstream and hang on as the fly swings across the river getting tight. You pause at the end because when you have success it's because the steelhead has chased it across the river and when it slows down and stops that is when you typically get the strike. And those strikes are violent because the steelhead takes the fly in shallow water downstream from you and heads like a rocket back to it's holding water. Typical swinging flies

for steelhead look nothing like anything in nature. They are colorful, long and skinny. On the pros recommendations, I used "Hobo Speys" and "Burnt Chickens" on this trip (unsuccessfully I might add). You can use traditional single handed fly rods; typically with a sinking head or a *versileader*. But, typically you use a spey rod in swinging for steelhead. I spent a good amount of quality time in lessons with SDF's John Wiley who taught me how to cast a spey rod proficiently. But, alas, my spey rod is still a virgin. Although I have to tell you I am hooked on the spey rod thing. Using a Double Spey cast over either shoulder I was casting 80-100 feet effortlessly...which allows you to cover a lot of water. There is no back cast in a spey cast so you really can do it anywhere.

**3. Dries** – As crazy unlikely as it seems you can fish dries for steelhead. You can even skate them with a Spey Rod. It's quite the long shot. I have only caught one steelhead in my lifetime on a dry and it was because of a guide, the world famous Jim Kerr of the OP on the Bogshiel river. It was 25 years ago and I have been obsessed by it ever since. Gary, Paul and Jack gave it their all for sure... and had as much success with dries as I did swinging. While I was swinging the spey rod those guys were fishing "like men": big dries.



*Jack and Gary throwing dries just downstream from the Lewiston "old bridge".*

## Feature Article, cont.

### The Lodging

One of the pleasant surprises on this trip is the place Paul inked us to stay: The Old Lewiston Inn. It's a set of buildings right on the Trinity River. It is set in the Historical part of the area from the gold rush days with most of the buildings originally built in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It has an awesome view of the river and of the "Old bridge". "Jess and Dave" are the proprietors, the most friendly people in the world. This is the type of place where I kept saying, "My wife would just love this place." I will definitely coming back and staying there.

The only...and I mean only... negative was that we were looking forward to eating (and consuming large amounts of whiskey) at the fairly famous Lewiston Hotel Restaurant which is just steps from The Old Lewiston Inn. But, darnit, the owners decided to go on a vacation the week we were there. So, it was closed. That made going to dinner a little bit of an ordeal because we had to drive the 25 minutes to Weaverville and back for the first 3 nights. The hot tip for eating is at the Weaverville Golf Course, "The best Prime Rib north of the Bowling Alley in Bishop is at the Golf Course Restaurant in Weaverville", said Jack.

On the last night Jess and Dave offered to set up a BBQ for us so we could "cook at home" and we gladly took them up on it. That's the type of people they are.

FYI: Upstream of the old bridge fishing is closed during spawning season so we were not able to fish right in front of the hotel. But we fished just downstream a few hundred feet from the hotel; just behind the old bridge where it was legal. It's great water there too for about 1/2 mile. We saw steelhead; we just couldn't fool them. Unfortunately, we did run into poachers on this trip sightseeing up stream of the bridge. It was a shame.

***'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. — Alfred Lord Tennyson***

Well, my favorite story of this trip was definitely how Jack landed a huge steelhead after losing one right at the net just an hour earlier...after fishing hard the day prior without landing any.

Why do we remember the fish we lost more than the fish we catch? For me, my 2<sup>nd</sup> favorite moment was a big wild steelhead I snapped off and lost. It went down like this: I had only caught a 1/2 pounder on the first day and it was slow. We approached a rapid and Luke (the guide) said something like, "stick it in that soft water on the left at the edge under the bushes". It was only a ten foot long drift in fairly fast water so kind of a tough cast with a ten foot dropper under the indicator. But, sure

enough I got it in there and my line tightened, I set, and the big fish flashed. I set again. It jumped. It was huge. Well, I was in the back of the boat (Jack in Front) and now I was dragging the fish through the rapids behind me and it was taking a ton of line. In the rapids Luke couldn't slow the boat (God only knows he was trying) and anchoring was out of the question we were going so fast. I was well into the backing when I saw a rock in the middle of the river on my right (facing backwards). I manage to pull the fish out and around that rock back into the current. But, my reel was still screaming as the fish was really not into taking a ride down the rapids.

To make it worse, out of the corner of my eye on the right I could see another rock coming fast and it was bigger and taller. The reel was screaming and two things occurred to me quickly: 1. I could spool this fish and 2. Maybe I could flip the line over the rock. But we were now around 150 feet downstream from that steelhead and going fast through the rapid. There was no way to flip the line. So I pulled hard again and snap! I broke him off. A 10 pound fish on 6 pound flouro. I smiled because the battle was fun. I was not bummed because luck is a huge part of steelheading and I just happened to hook a good one in a bad place. I said, "I lost him." Luke looked back at me and I could see the heartbreak in his face because he couldn't help with chasing that fish with the boat.



*A wild steelhead like this will change your life*



# Planned Trips 2022

**March 19, 7:00 am, Tidelands, San Diego Bay**

April 16-17	Squaw Lake with Arizona Fly Fishers
May 14	Coronado Dog Beach, Shorepounders
June 4-11	Estero Coyote, Baja Sur
June 18	Lake Henshaw Shorepounders
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



For more information contact [Kai Schumann](#)

or look for details in *The Indicator*.

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



# Fly of the Month

## *Mel's Minnow*



(A modified Clouser with Legs based on flies tied by Charlie Wright)

### **Materials:**

Hook: Size 4  
Thread: 240 denier of matching color (Orange, Chartreuse, Red)  
Eyes: Chartreuse, Red  
Flash: orange, silver, gold, sparkling red, chartreuse, pearl  
Legs: "Perfect Rubber" White, Fl. Red, Fl. Orange, Medium round rubber Chartreuse  
Fibers: Steve Farrar: Olive/Orange, RedWhite, Chartreuse/white, Solarez Blue Light resin

### **Recipe:**

Secure hook in the vise hook down.

Base wrap shank with coordinating color thread.

Secure eyes with coordinating color.

Select several colors of flash and tie a single strand of each, doubled around the thread just behind the eye.

Select a single strand of white rubber legs, and a single strand of coordinating color legs and wrap each, doubled around the thread behind the eyes.

Tie the light colored fibers in front of the eyes in normal Clouser fashion, nose, over eyes and wrap behind the eyes a quarter inch or so. (typical Clouser) I make the fibers relatively shorter compared to the overall fly length. The fibers are about twice the length of the hook, ...about 1 ½ to 1 ¾ inches and the overall length of the fly is about 3 ½ inches so the legs trail out behind the fiber body.

Invert the hook in the vise.

Tie in the darker fibers in front of the eyes, extend over the eyes and wrap several thread wraps behind the eyes to bring the fibers flatter over the shank of the hook.

Form the nose with the thread and finish with Solarez or Sally's or glue.

Note: The "Perfect Rubber" legs are quite long. I had problems with short bites if I did not shorten them. My finished flies are about 3 ½ inches long. (I generally cut about ¾ inch off the long rubber legs after I am finished)

—Mel Ochs

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

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.



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

# Conservation & Education



**Golden Trout Trip June 24-27, 2021**



Once again this year we are planning our volunteer conservation and fishing trip into the Golden Trout Wilderness June 24-27. This is our biggest conservation effort each year. We take a dozen or two hardy volunteers on a 2 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 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](mailto:conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com)**

# Women's Programs

## ***Cider and Clousers***

Bivouac Ciderworks, Northpark, has offered to host a tying event for SDFE Women's Programs.

**Please check the link below for updated details**

Saturday March 26, 2022  
2:00 pm-4:00 pm



**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.  
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/>



**ADMISSION:**

- ADULTS: \$20.00. Includes lunch/drink
- UNDER 16 and VETS: Free
- NEW TO FLY FISHING: 15.00. Includes lunch and a FREE fly casting lesson to get you started
- 

**Long Beach Casting Club - 5201 E 7th St, Long Beach, CA 90804**

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Fly Tying Demonstrations all day
- Raffles
- Silent Auctions
- Flies for Sale
- Used-Equipment Sale
- Casting Lessons and Games
- BRING/DONATE a new or lightly used item of 40.00 retail value and get in FREE!

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

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)

Renew Now!

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

Click here to [Join](#) 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**, 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 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!



**Mel puts a barracuda on his lap!**



**Jennifer with a beautiful Pensacola redfish!**



**Mike P. beaches a nice perch!**



**A back-bay bonefish!**



**John, in a more serious moment, with an Oregon smallmouth!**

Please share a picture of your catch at: [Sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://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](#)

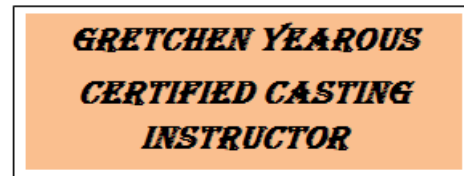
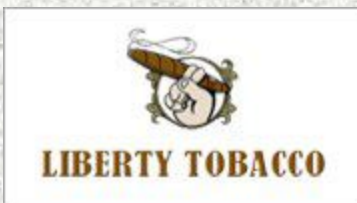
[USGS Flows](#)

[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)



# 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	<a href="#">President</a>
Vice President	vacant
Andrea Rae	<a href="#">Treasurer</a>
Mel Ochs	<a href="#">Secretary</a>
Alan Thompson	<a href="#">Membership</a> <a href="#">Sunday Fly Casting</a>
Bruce Harris	At large
Mark Hedderson	<a href="#">Editor Finny Facts / Indicator</a>
Tim Huckaby	<a href="#">Speaker Programs</a> <a href="#">Fundraising/At large</a>
Brooke Sargent	<a href="#">Women's Programs</a>
Kai Schumann	<a href="#">Outings Coordinator</a>
Gary Strawn	<a href="#">Conservation</a>
John Wylie	<a href="#">Casting Program Instruction</a> <a href="#">SWC-FFI Liaison</a>
	<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>
Jack Duncan	<a href="#">Rod Building</a>
Lucky Ketcham	<a href="#">Fly Tying Congress</a>
Lee McElravy	<a href="#">Project Healing Waters</a>
	<b>Web Master</b>
David Collins	<a href="#">Internet Resources Admin</a>

## 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



## Legends of the Fall

I wanted to write a joke about fly-fishers stumbling in a river but wasn't sure how to take the first step.

Who among us hasn't carelessly slipped while wading, especially when totally focused on a promising rise just a bit farther off than our last cast? With eyes focused on the prize instead of our footing (and already clad in Herman Munster boots), we boldly step across submerged bowling balls covered in slime, with predictable results.

I had never experience what it sounds like when someone strolling through the surf has one of their limbs seized by a bull shark, but when my buddy Warren was wading downstream of me on the Owens River a few summers ago, I was suddenly party to horrific shrieks of shock and awe, accompanied by frantic splashing. When I looked his way, he was already on his hands and knees crawling ashore.

"Piper down! We've got a Piper down!" I shouted.

He failed to see the humor in that (despite his love of the film that inspired the line). Fortunately, he had slipped into water deep enough to cushion his fall; unfortunately, it was also deep enough to fill his waders to near bursting and fully immerse his nether regions in gallons of icy water. Note: future fallers—yes, this means you—always ensure that your belt is fully snugged before cartwheeling into the current.

And me? Yes, I've had my share of tumbles, a few of which have resulted in medical attention, surgery even, thus causing my wife to be overly concerned whenever my actions might test the merciless forces of gravity, which includes climbing ladders, dancing on bars, and wading. Moreover, she also thinks I'm injury prone and pretty much forbids me to fish by myself, especially in river canyons.

So, there I was walking above a stretch of the American River (by myself), looking for steelhead. The footing seemed sound, a well-travelled pathway, which nonetheless gave way sending me down a twelve-foot embankment of -gravel, boulders, and blackberry canes. Only a foot from the water's edge, a bit bloodied but basically intact, I looked downstream and discovered two anglers, only a rod length away, previously hidden from my view above. I offered what I thought was a great line, under the circumstances:

"Mind if I drop in?"

In silence, neither one of them gave me so much as a glance, continuing to focus on the swirling waters ahead, showing a level determination and commitment to the task at hand that was truly admirable. 'Jerks' I thought at the time, but at least my secret is safe with them, so long as they don't read the Finny Facts and tip off the missus.

*(Humbly submitted by the still-bruised editor)*