

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

Chip O'Brien to Speak at September Meeting

Chip O'Brien caught his first fish on a bamboo fly rod in Wisconsin at the tender age of ten. That pivotal moment evolved into a lifelong passion for catching fish on the long rod.

After college (between fishing trips) he pursued a career in corporate sales until he realized it would be much more fun to pursue wild trout instead. Chip moved his family from the LA area to Redding a dozen years ago where he supplements his guiding income by teaching and working as a youth minister.

A prolific writer and photographer, his most recent articles appear in *California FlyFisher* and *Northwest Flyfishing* magazines. He is the author of "River Journal - Sacramento River."

An FFF certified casting instructor, Chip teaches fly fishing for Clearwater House on Hat Creek and Shasta College of Redding.

REMINDER
Volunteer hosts for the September meeting (report at 6:15 PM):
Dan Denhart & Bob Krings
Thank you, Mona Morebello

In Memoriam *Robby Robinson and Bob Reeg*

We lost two members in July, **Robby Robinson** and **Bob Reeg**. Although I never had an opportunity to fish with them, I knew them both. For each of these men, members of what Tom Brokaw calls "The Greatest Generation", the San Diego Fly Fishers was an important part of their lives.



Frederick "Robby" Robinson

When I first joined the club I inherited the Member of the Month column from Steve Netti. One of the columns I wrote featured Robby Robinson. Robby grew up in Colorado, where he and his father, a

foreman in a mining operation, hiked and fished the high country lakes. Some of those lakes have fish because Robby and his father planted trout, carried to those mountain lakes in milk cans on horseback. He remembered camping with his father. Long before the days of down sleeping bags, he would roll himself tightly in a blanket and sleep as close to the fire as he could. His backpack was a burlap sack with holes cut near the top for his arms.

As a newly minted Ensign in the U.S. Navy, Robby wrote his mother, telling her that he and several other junior officers had pooled their money to buy a car, and that they were living in a nice apartment. Everything was just great, he wrote, and she shouldn't worry about him. Robby's mother treasured that letter, dated December 6, 1941 and postmarked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Robby spent his war years in the Pacific Theater as a meteorologist.

A few years ago he returned to one of those mountain lakes of his youth. He removed his shoes and socks to wade to a rock, so that he could extend his casts. He had a great day fishing, he reported, until the time came to wade back to shore and head down the mountain. His feet, exposed to the sun all day, were burnt tender, making his return trip painful. When he told me that story, he gave me one those patented, impish Robby smiles.

Bob Reeg also spent his war years in the Pacific, serving three years as an aviation mechanic in the Philippines. His son, Jim, delivered a moving eulogy at his funeral.

MEETING NOTICE
Monday, September 11, 2000
7:30 PM
Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Ave.
(See map on back page)



There are advantages to having a few years of fly fishing under one's wader belt, including the fact that you hopefully have more confidence than the first time you picked up a fly rod. You have caught your first "big" fish, had days when you caught fish beyond your imagination, and have some memorable, glorious days of fishing because all the elements—including weather, scenery, companionship, cooperative fish, lack of tangles, etc.—came together for you. In other words, you have experienced enough so that you no longer (or at least not very often) experience anxieties about statistics, your ability, etc.

The San Juan River has bestowed all the above upon me over the years. And so this year when some friends and I headed there on our annual pilgrimage the last week of July I decided to just focus on particular types of flies for the sake of trying something different, against the grain, and against conventional wisdom...and hopefully learn something in the process. For instance, one afternoon I set out to only use streamers, and a couple of other days I only used hoppers (with and without a dropper). This is a do-or-die-by-the-lure type of philosophy. Of course, there are die hard dry fly fishermen that do this as a matter of course—you know 'em, they would rather not catch a fish all day using a dry fly than resort to nymphs.

This is an exercise I learned in photography many years ago; that is, in order to appreciate the qualities of any particular lens, spend considerable time using only that lens, and do as much as you possibly

can to fully appreciate its capabilities. Just as this exercise sharpens your appreciation of your inventory of lens, similarly, it will sharpen your skills with regard to your entire arsenal of flies.



PATRICK CASE

And the results can be very rewarding when you dial in on where a hopper works best, or target those deep holes with a woolly bugger and dredge out the lunker rainbow that you knew in your heart was residing there. For me, this is worth ten fish caught blind fishing with nymphs.

I spotted something very rewarding on the San Juan this year, and that was the number of children on the river. It was as if it had been declared family week on the San Juan with the number of young folks—replete with waders and the full regalia—that we saw with mothers and fathers. And they were serious, too. The essence of determination is the expression on the face of a ten year old with an eighteen-inch rainbow on the other end of the line!

Our club does more than perhaps any other organization when it comes to involving interested newcomers to fly fishing. But I wonder if we couldn't do more to increase the ranks of the younger set. Mike Kaul has done a lot with regard to the local Boys and Girls Clubs, which the club has supported. Other clubs have specific "youth programs." I'm not sure that would work for our club, but it is clear that kids need to be continually introduced to the sport. Dealing with the younger group would take special treatment, and the interest of a special person to take this on—someone with special knowledge of the requirements of adolescents. If anyone

is interested in starting a youth oriented program, or perhaps teaming up with Mike, please give me a call and I will be happy to point you in the direction of available resources.

As Jack Bentley might say, the fishing on the San Juan was good, the fish were cooperative, the weather great, and the camaraderie better. For those heading to the San Juan in October, I strongly recommend you do yourself a favor by holding off on lunch until you get to Cuba. Some of the best Southwestern food you will ever find can be found there on the north end of town at a small restaurant called Bruno's. Ask to sit in the patio dining area. Lunch will cost you a little more than the Lotta-Burger Combo at Blakes, but then again, it will be the last really good meal you have for the next five days!

In closing, I would like to thank Jeff Solis for the great program he put on at the August meeting, and reiterate his encouragement to try salt water fishing. As a dyed-in-the-wool trout fisherman who recently tried the Sea of Cortez out of Las Arenas, I assure you that you need to try the salt if you haven't done so yet. While we are not close to any of the blue ribbon trout fisheries, some the greatest fishing in the world is right in our own backyard: the Pacific and Sea of Cortez. And the fishing?...think of it this way, the average bonita on a 10 wt. is like a 20 inch wild rainbow on a 3 wt. But just like trying any fishery for the first time, the assistance of a guide will push you way up the learning curve. So whether you want to get into surf fishing, or go for the blue water stuff, I encourage you to call on the fellows at the San Diego Fly Shop first for some lessons, then sign up for a trip to Baja the first chance you get!

Tight lines. 🎣



The Future of the San Mateo Steelhead Rainbow Trout

By Warren Lew

On July 28th, representatives from various conservation organizations and government agencies met to discuss and make plans for the restoration of habitat for the steelhead rainbow trout in San Mateo Creek. The U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton, the U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited, San Diego Trout, and the San Diego Flyfishers were among those represented.

Allen Greenwood of San Diego Trout and George Sutherland of Trout Unlimited, organized this meeting, so that all of the interested parties could provide input on how the \$800,000 provided by Proposition 12, might be used. All ready, \$200,000.00, is available for this year...but how this money is spent must be approved by the California Coastal Conservancy.

One of the major hurdles for a successful restoration of the steelhead is obtaining the cooperation of the U. S. Marine Corps. They are concerned about the water that San Mateo Creek provides, and that any restoration effort does not hinder their training program. They feel that the current resource management is “adequate”, and stated that although they will listen to any plans... they did not want to be considered a “partner” at this time.

Although full cooperation by the Marine Corps and access to the base would be desirable, most everyone agreed that our initial efforts should be focused on the upper section of the creek, which is in the Cleveland National Forest, just above the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. Restoration objectives were discussed, and they centered on two objectives.

The first one will be to remove all of the non-native animals from the watershed. There are a number of warm water species, and include carp, black bass, bluegill, the green sunfish, bullhead, the red swamp crayfish, and bullfrogs. They’ll have to be removed because they compete for food and some are predatory for juvenile steelhead.

Interestingly, although chemical treatment is a very effective method of removing these unwanted animals, it can’t be used in the restoration work, because it kills other invertebrates. So, a combination of seining and electroshocking the holding areas of these animals will be used.

Once the non-native animals have brought under control, the restoration effort plans to reintroduce one of the native fish, the partially armored threespine stickleback,

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In Memoriam

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Bob was very proud of his service during World War II and he was proud of his family, his 54 years of marriage to his wife, Phyllis, his three children and his many grandchildren.

Bob loved fly-fishing, and I know that he enjoyed the time he spent fishing with his son and his friends in the club. He would give reports of his latest Eastern Sierra trips with his son, where they fished the South Weir near Bishop. Bob endured knee replacement surgery shortly before he passed away. The doctors cautioned that the operation would be painful, though necessary if Bob wanted to maintain a level of physical activity. He told his son, “I’ve got to do this. Without this operation

I’ll never be able to climb into a boat with Bob Camp at Lee’s Ferry.”

Jim told me that he is planning a trip to South Weir; he has a couple of flies he intends to “lose” there.

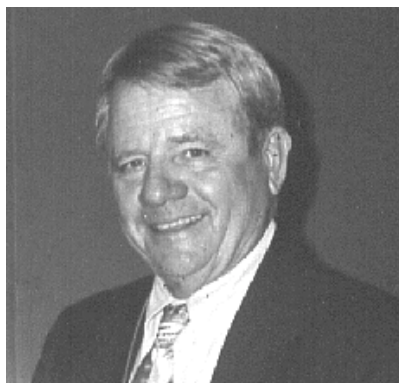
Our club is blessed by the continuing membership of many men of “The Greatest Generation”. Typical of a collective spirit of not taking themselves too seriously, they refer to themselves as “old farts”. They tend to get uncomfortable when you praise them, they have always done the job because it needed to be done, not because they were fishing for accolades. They have been active in club activities, and many are still active. They are the heart-and-soul of the casting clinic, form the nucleus of the Wednesday Bunch, and make up the “back-benchers” at each

of our monthly meetings. One happens to own a fly shop and has been a generous supporter of the club since the day it was founded. Many have served on the board, as officers, and presidents.

Take some time to thank them, not only for what they have done for our club, but for their contributions and sacrifices for our country.

--Jim Tenuto





JACK BENTLEY

New Mexico on the Agenda for the Fall

San Juan River Trip October 8-13

Just a few openings left, so sign up now! This is a great trip, beautiful scenery, low water, easy wading, and everyone catches fish. Contact **Lynn Atnip** the trip organizer for further details at

Lees Ferry Trip Coming Up at the End of the Year

This is a nice trip for at least two to four people. But if you cannot get your own group together plan to go with the Club December 4-8th. Call Jack at for details.

Trout and Only a Trout Will Do?

By Kim Jones

Trout, is there really any other fish worth fishing for? Those wonderful speckled brook, brown, golden and rainbow trout. Could there be anything better than a 17" trout rising to your elk hair caddis? For many years I felt this statement to be true and therefore limited my fishing to spring, fall and far to few locations locally.

Along came people like Ed Velton, Ted Reinert and Carl Stanzone who told stories about huge largemouth bass, great blue gill and an ocean full of massive fish with teeth to match their size. I noticed that the ever wonderful trout were not mentioned in their stories of great fishing, but they seemed to be having a wonderful time anyway and most importantly they were fishing weekly. I began to wonder the merits of warmwater and saltwater fly fishing. Much to my delight these gentlemen, along with several others were willing to share their insights, techniques and favorite locations. Suddenly a small hole had developed in my picture of the perfect fish.

I set out to experience a broader world of fly fishing. I began reading articles on fly fishing for surf perch, halibut, corbina, bass, blue gill and carp. These fish were



ugly looking mouth.

My next fishing adventure took me to the local shores of San Diego, where I successfully landed my first surf perch and eventually several halibut, the largest one weighing in at approximately 6 lbs. Next I am hoping for the ever-elusive corbina, which I understand can give you quite a ride. The only real down side to

all a world away from the ever-familiar trout. I found that the techniques were not much different than what I was used for trout, but the flies were quite different and I must say easier to tie. I discovered the joy of a 4 lb bass rising to a tiny popper and the kissing sound of a blue gill sucking in my fly. I found out that stalking a carp is a lot harder than anything I have ever had to do to catch a trout. I caught my first carp (7 lbs) on a visit to my parents home in Nevada. It took 15 minutes to bring the carp to the kayak and another 5 minutes to get up enough nerve to lip the

surf fishing is the ungodly hour of the morning (5am) that is required or so the guys tell me that's the best fishing time. You really have to want to catch fish to arrive at your fishing site that early in the morning. But at least there are no lake or launch fees to pay and you get to witness the rising of the sun sparkling off of the crashing waves.

These days spring, summer, fall and winter you will find me fishing for a whole new list of fish at new and diverse fishing locations. I haven't given up on catching

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San Mateo Steelhead

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into the creek.

The second objective will be to remove the non-native plants out of San Mateo creek. Especially targeted will be the salt cedar and arundo.

\$200,000 for the restoration of steelhead habitat in San Mateo Creek isn't going to go very far... and volunteers are needed.

In the next few months, work will begin, and I would like to invite you to be a part of this work. You'll be able to work along side with the Department of Fish and Game, other members of the club, high energy individuals like Allen Greenwood, and make a difference.

You'll find this work more satisfying than working on your golf game...because

you're never going to be good anyway!

To volunteer, please contact Allen Greenwood at [Warren Lew at _____](mailto:Warren.Lew@...)

[Sherry Brainerd](mailto:Sherry.Brainerd@...), Club Conservation Chairperson, at _____

Trout and Only Trout Will Do?

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beautiful trout, which will always be a favorite and a joy. I am however, thoroughly enjoying the ever-broadening world of fly fishing for any kind of fish in any new location. I'm looking forward to having a long list of diversified fish I have successfully caught and released. 🐟



Kim Jones with some of those "other" fish that are available on the fly rod-- surf perch (left) and carp (above).

FLY CASTING AT LAKE MURRAY

The trout season is in full swing in the sierras. Or how about some local trout/bass fishing. Want to learn to flycast or just improve your skills? Join the San Diego Fly Fishers every Sunday morning from 9 AM until noon.

(See map on back page for location).

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

PROGRAM MEETING-11th-Monday, 7:30 PM, Chip O'Brien.

CUTOFF DATE FOR FINNY FACTS ARTICLES-15th-Friday, Send articles to: Rose and Roger Yamasaki, . You can E-mail at

Thanks!!

EASTERN SIERRA FISHING-22nd-24th-Friday thru Sunday, weekend trip fishing in the Eastern Sierras. Contact George Gates at for further details.

BOARD MEETING- Held the last Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the offices of . Call Pat Case to make sure meeting hasn't been postponed. All are welcome.



Howdy friends and Sierra Drifters.

Hope all of you have found a cool and comfortable place to sit and plan your next trip to the Eastern Sierra. It has been very hot even in the higher elevations with the 90-degree mark being reached. A brief period of T-storm activity last week was very

welcome, but not significant enough to bring any reprieve from a very dry summer. River and creek conditions continue to be excellent, however some are getting on the low water level side for this time of year. This will affect the fall conditions. Dry fly action has picked up since the last report in some areas and the high country lakes and creeks are fishing great with very few passes causing any travel problems. Dress for hot weather, plan on drinking plenty of fluids if hiking or spending prolonged periods casting in the sun. The weather can change quickly here, but the forecast calls for more of the same hot, dry conditions for the near future. Best fishes to all.

Crowley Lake: Good-excellent

The algae bloom has once again become a factor this season. The lake level is very low for this time of year, and surface temps have reached a balmy 72 degrees! The fish are stacking up near any kind of influent flow, looking for cooler water and increased oxygen levels.

The D.F.G. has planted several hundred thousand sub-catchables as of the closing

of bait season August 1st, and these fish have started to show up on the imitations

we are using. Be extra careful releasing these little critters please, they are the lakes future!

The Sacramento Perch fry have grown to about 3/4" in length, and are being hammered in the a.m. periods by larger

trout. Break out the olive streamers! We are using chironomids and scuds in about 6' of water most of the time.

We have had so many great days on Crowley this season, please check out a few of the pictures on our website at <http://sierradrifters.com>

Jake Brower and Darrel, alias "Heavy D" Dworakowski, of Santa Ana, Ca. had to be roped into the fighting chair after tangling with over 60 Crowley fatties. Jake thought marlin were tough until he hooked into a Crowley Kamloops rainbow. Hang on Jake!!!

Marilyn Bayles, of Thousand Oaks, Ca. revisited us this August and caught another web fish. A chunky 20" Eagle Lake rainbow that hit a chironomid late in the day. You go girl!

Paul Young, of Los Angeles, Ca. and family booked an early August trip and spanked over 60 fish including this gorgeous brown that hit a scud pattern. You da man Pablo!

SIERRA DRIFTERS



TOM LOE

Bridgeport Reservoir: Fair

You can get some nice browns here, but you will have to work for them. Use full sink lines, and fish the shadow periods late and early. Finding clear water is a problem for fly fishers. Perch fry imitations, damsel fly nymphs, olive in color, will get takes if you can keep a clean fly. I suggest the dam, or public launch area at the north end of the lake for tubers.

East Walker River: Excellent for size, fair for numbers

Flows remain low, 228 cfs. at the time of this report. Water temp is 70 degrees. Mayfly spinners in the a.m. then do some nymphing with caddis imitations in the deeper holes and pools later in the day and you will get some big fish. I love this place. You will not get huge numbers here, but it is a great place to hook that big brown or toad jumpin' rainbow in a river. Be methodical. Proper weighting of the nymph rig and depth under your indicator is the key to hooking fish here. The East Walker has many different types of water and each must be fished specifically.

West Walker: Very good

Excellent surface action in the morning and late day here. Golden stones #12-14, yellow-bodied caddis #14-18, work well for us. Use a dry and a dropper combo with a small bead head as the trailer. The fish are small, but eager to smack any well presented dry. Wet wading is no problem; the river is very easy to fish at current flows.

Upper Owens River: Fair

Numbers are down here, however some big resident browns are taking hopper

continued on next page



patterns when the wind picks up. We experienced some good action with small olive bodied caddis, #20, for a short time recently and picked up some nice 12" rainbows in the deeper pools. Skeeters are thick; bring a haz-mat suit or chemicals.

We are working with Gary Gunsolly of Brock's Flyfishing in Bishop to change the regulations back for the Gauntlet (down stream from Benton Crossing Bridge to Crowley Lake). The DFG looks at this issue every couple of years and we need to start building a case now. We would appreciate your comments on this issue...please email us and we will forward your responses to Gary for a file he is compiling. Thanks for the support.

Lower Owens River/Pleasant Valley Reservoir: Poor

Still cranking at 600cfs. Wait until fall.

Hot Creek: Fair-good

If you excel at fishing small emerger patterns go for it! The creek is running low for this time of year and the weeds are above the surface. Most of the fish are congregated in the deeper pools and runs. Crowds are a factor even more than usual due to the fact that you must cover more water to keep from spooking fish. You will get a fish in one area, but spook the hole in turn. Still fun to fish and a good challenge for more experienced anglers.

San Joaquin River: Good-excellent

This is a fun place to fish. Lots of smaller but eager fish, especially on dries. Use an attractor pattern. A Royal Coachman, Trudes, Parachute Wulfes, Golden Stones will all get takes in #14-18. The river is running low and is easily wading for all.

Randy Debrueler of Simi Valley, Ca.

hooked a Sierra grand slam recently while fishing with us. Randy used a yellow bodied Stimulator with a bead head caddis as a dropper to fool a hybrid golden trout, several small brook trout, wild and planted rainbows, and a small brown that evaded a photograph. Happy birthday Randy, best wishes with your new addition to the family!

Rush Creek: Fair

Tough fishing below Grant Lake. Fall will bring better action here. Fish the area below Hwy. 395 towards Mono Lake. Use a dry and dropper combo. The deeper holes will hold bigger fish. Break out your 3wt. and 6x tippet for this area.

Mammoth Lakes basin: Good

Great weather for fishing this area. Aggressive planting by both the D.F.G. and Alpers hatcheries have made this a sure bet for fooling some planted fish. Troll olive or black streamer patterns #8-12 with a full or heavy sink tip line and work the drop-offs or submerged tree stumps in any of the basin lakes.

GUIDE TIP: CATCH AND RELEASE

Many times anglers with good intentions release fish improperly and I witness this frequently. Time and time again I watch as the fish is mishandled and its fate doomed by improper release methods. Please, Please, keep the fish in the water as much as possible when practicing catch and release. There is a great tool out called a Ketchum Release, Orvis product, sold at better shops, get one! These babies work very well when removing small flies. Avoid netting or handling the fish if at all possible. If you must handle the fish please do your best to moisten your hands first. Make sure those barbs are filed or smashed totally. This really insures a

smooth release. You can get them out of your ear, appendages, hat, etc. faster and with far less associated pain as a bonus.

It is understandable when you finally fool "Troutzilla" you want a photo. Have your camera ready so as to limit the amount of time the fish is forced to pose. Hold your breath after running 3 minutes without taking a gulp of air and see how you feel. Use this as a meter when admiring a fish. Please take time to revive the fish fully and release it in soft water so it may regain strength. This may take several minutes on larger fish. Hold the fish upright and lightly near the tail section, work it back and forth slowly, head into the current if present, until it kicks away. Avoid holding the fish near the mid-section or head/gill plate area.

Internal damage will kill the fish later. Keep your hands moist and at all costs do not scrape the protective slime off the fish, this prevents fungus and infections of the fishes skin.

When releasing from a tube or boat and it becomes necessary to net a fish, please use soft material, nylon or rubber net bags really help. Keep the fish submerged when removing the hook. A great website to check out is <http://sierranetco.com>. We use Joel's nets at Sierra Drifters.

Throwing a fish back does not mean it's a contest to see if you can make the Olympic shot put team. Fish undergo severe trauma when caught, give them the chance to regain power and stability when put back.

Love them, then leave them...

Best fishes to all,
Be the fly...Tom Loe, Sierra Drifters Guide Service 🦋



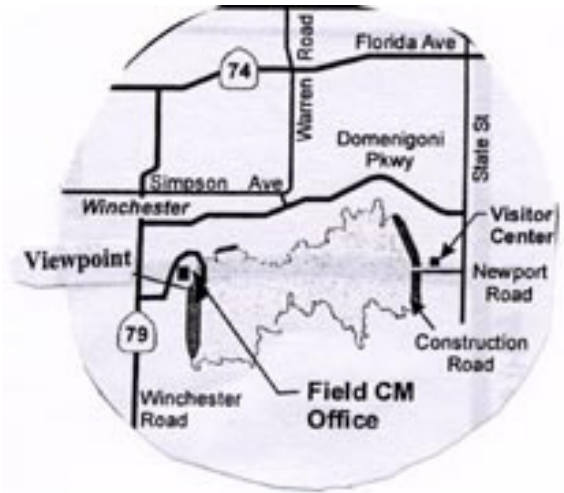
Diamond Lake--A New Bucket Soon to Open

I feel bad that Kim Jones couldn't be in the picture (Photo 1 below); she is the one who took the photograph! Nothing fair about life is there. She takes the only good picture of the buckets and is the one that gets left out. Well, anyway this isn't about us folks but the new lake opening near Hemet. It's a big un; 4.5 miles long, covering nearly 4,500 acres and holding more than 260 billion gallons of water. Going to be a few fish in there too. They have planted the usual variety of warm water fishes minus the striped bass; that in response to the input of fisher persons throughout the region. It's easy to get there as shown in the map copied from the hand out at the lake.



ED VELTON

Don't know if all this will come about but it's planned to open in about 2 years, maybe sooner. But again, maybe later. You know how this goes.



Whenever it opens you are going to find one impressive body of water. It's on the scale of lake Mead. Even right now it is impressive. See the photograph of the lake showing the small island.



Photo 1: Old buckets--Joe Bain, Ed Velton, and Ramond Stillwell.

That little blob in the photograph was part of the press area at a press gathering in March of this year. The shallow water near the island



Photo 2: Diamond Lake with small island.

Jane and I drove up in late July to take a peek. It's about an hour's drive from San Diego up I-15 to 79 then East to the lake. There are 2 main dams, East and West. Recreation areas including boat launches will be located near the dams. The recreation plans are extensive including RV parks, picnic grounds, sailing and canoeing ponds, and swimming areas.

looks fantastic. I can just imagine tubing in Diamond lake.



Diamond Lake

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Photo 3: West Dam of Diamond Lake.



Photo 4: Diamond Lake inlet.

The photograph of the West dam gives some indication of the size of this project. It's 180 feet high. Did I mention that the deepest part of the lake will be around 250 feet.

Where does all this water come from? That's a good question. Photo 4 shows the inlet to the lake. It doesn't roar in like it

did when they started filling it but it's still coming in.

We have to drain little Morena to get along but we can find 260 billion gallons to fill Diamond lake. You figure it. All I can say is that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is heading up the project and that says, "Los Angeles."

Every one knows that LA really knows how to corner water.

Well, anyway maybe we'll get to dip a line in Diamond lake in a year or 2. I sure hope I get to see it open and fish it. It's going to make a big difference in the water picture in Southern California. 🐟

Regrets from Bob Wisner Regarding His Column

*The Club Biologist Suffers the Dreaded
'Technical Difficulties'*

NOTHING - for consecutive issues, alibi's are:

First issue: the deadline for copy came too soon.

Second issue: my computer and two word processors went down the day before the deadline. I suffer from a mild case (chronic) of procrastination.

Third issue: I can only try.

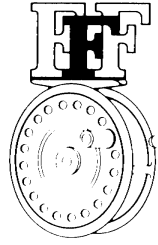
Sorry!



Let the Fishing Begin!! The opening of silver salmon fishing season starts the "combat" fishing on Ship Creek in Anchorage, Alaska.

--Editors





Author unknown

Submitted by Rob Thompson of the Casper, Wyoming Fly Casters

MORNING RUSH

I KNOW HE’S THERE! My eyes snap open in the pre-dawn darkness. I look at my watch, it’s 5:30 A.M. I roll over and savor the warmth of the bed. I procrastinate; it’s cold, maybe later, it is too dark. But I KNOW HE’S THERE! Five minutes, ten minutes, I can wait no longer. I’m wide-awake as I put on my pants. I grope for the midge rod and find the leader end. I tie on a foot of 7X tippet, locate a size 12 muddler in my box and knot it on. He is not particularly leader shy, but in fairness I’m compelled to use light tippet. I cut the hook off at the bend with a small pair of wire cutters. I am ready.

I carefully work my way down and around to his morning lie. The eastern sky begins to lighten and I KNOW HE’S THERE! My heart races with anticipation as I inch

along the last 10 feet on hands and knees. I raise slightly and start working the line out. Out, back. Out, back. Out, the line snaps straight, and the muddler splats 2 feet past the rubber tree. Perfect! I let it lie for about 15 seconds and then give it a twitch. Twitch, twitch and a 12 inch strip! A slight movement! My heart is pounding, my palms are sweaty, my respiration is thready! Twitch! Twitch, strip! He explodes from cover and takes the muddler! I raise the rod tip and he is mine!

The reel is a blur as he runs across and up. He jumps down and into the conversation pit, around a potted begonia and over the coffee table. Crash goes the ashtray! Up on the end table, crash goes the lamp! Across the room and behind the television set! He stops there and sulks, but I have stopped his run.

I pump the rod and get a few winds of line back before he breaks cover and races for the dining room. Around a heavy dining room chair leg, then toward the basement stairs. I know I can never hold him if he reaches the stairs. But his rush is so violent, I cannot hold him! The line goes slack! He has broken off! I sit back and wipe the sweat out of my eyes. I take deep breaths until my heart begins to regulate. I wind in my line.

My wife inquires from the upstairs bedroom, “What’s going on down there?”

I reply, “Never mind.” I giggle, she giggles. I sit there in the dark and wait. He silently slips into my lap and drops the muddler in my hand. He says, “purrrower” and starts a deep humming purr. I think maybe he is giggling too. 🐱

FLY FISHING QUIZ

1. What action in the casting stroke loads the rod?

- A) The drift move
- B) Stopping the rod
- C) Follow through
- D) Acceleration to a stop

2. The size of the casting arc should:

- A) Vary from 45 to 50 degrees
- B) Increase as the rod bend increases
- C) Never exceed 45 degrees
- D) Decrease as the rod bend increases

3. Which of the following is true? Large arbor/large diameter reels:

- A) Require less turns (and time) in retrieving line
- B) Spin faster when a fish takes line
- C) Are louder than small arbor reels
- D) Increase memory in fly lines

4. An off shoulder cast:

- A) Is only useful for left handed casters
- B) Changes the position of the rod hand

- C) Is useful in a right hand wind (for a right handed caster)
- D) Requires changing your rod to your non dominant hand

Answers: 1. (D); 2. (B); 3. (A); 4. (C)

(by Liz Watson of the Northwest Women Flyfishers)



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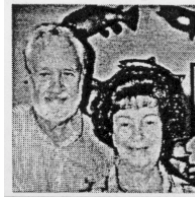
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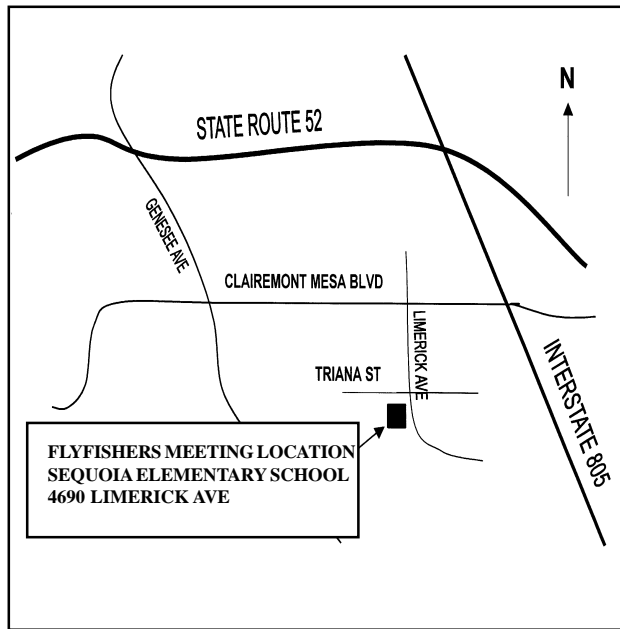
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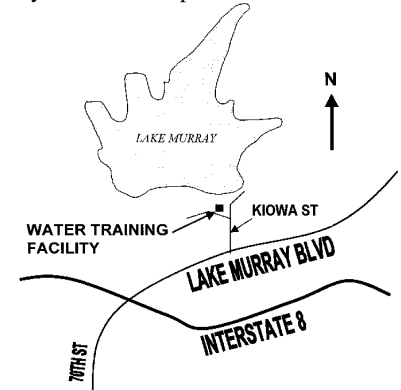
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