

FINNY FACTS

San Diego Fly Fishers

April 2020

Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 43 No. 4

Keep Calm and Fish On!

(Or at least do all the cool stuff that fly fishers do
when not on the water.)

Although the general meeting in April is
canceled,

The club will remain as active as possible!



Kern River Native

Please see updates posted about club
activities via our website,
Facebook, and the Indicator.

Please send Content to
editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

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Time to renew your mem-
bership with San Diego Fly
Fishers for 2020.

President's Message

We are living in extraordinary times, calling for extreme measures. Covid-19 is sweeping the country and overloading our health care systems. As you know, we have suspended all club group activities until further notice. Our position is to follow local and state government mandates for containment by staying at home, limiting our movements and group activities, and practicing the safe health practices published by CDC and County Health Department. By working together, we will support the efforts of our front line health care providers and help contain the spread of this virus.

The BOD will continue to meet via teleconference to manage future club activities and programs. The June fundraiser is postponed to September at the earliest. Sherry Ashbaugh is in the process of making contingency plans for Fundraising. We will post updates as the current events play out. In the meantime, let's take this opportunity to tie up some fly boxes for a future fundraiser event. Contact Sherry Ashbaugh if you have any questions regarding fundraising opportunities.

There has been a host of Covid-19 virus containment regulations posted by our local governments, including the State of California, City of San Diego, the San Diego Unified Port District, the City of Chula Vista, and City of Coronado. City Parks, Parking lots, city and state beaches, have been closed or are in the process of being taped off to public access. The goal of course is to limit group gatherings of two or more and to contain the spread of the virus. It's imperative that we all do our part to adhere to these restrictions.

Boaters, float tubers, kayakers have asked me if and where they can access the water. Since I'm involved with the Shelter Island Outboard Boating Club, I've forwarded guidance from the Port regarding access to water-based activities. I've also posted all the local park and beach closures. I've asked Mike Gilroy to assemble all these guidelines in a comprehensive notice on our web site.

While getting outside for limited essential activities is permitted, the operative word through all regulations is limiting social contact and maintaining 6 ft minimum distance. I would further add that if you have a face mask and gloves, wear them. Further, I would suggest checking with the local jurisdiction before venturing out for any outdoor activity.

This is a good time to plan for the day when we are virus free and are on our favorite stream or beach. Let's get that fly-tying desk cleaned up and start tying with a vengeance! You know what you need. I'm working on my saltwater flies for bay, surf, Estero Coyote and La Ventana, Baja Sur in September. Also, the never-ending task of organizing that garage! Working together we will get through these challenging times.

Jim Castelluzzo
March 29, 2020

president@sandiegoflyfishers.com



Speaker Programs

Upcoming Programs

**April's meeting is postponed
We will update all future programs as soon as possible**

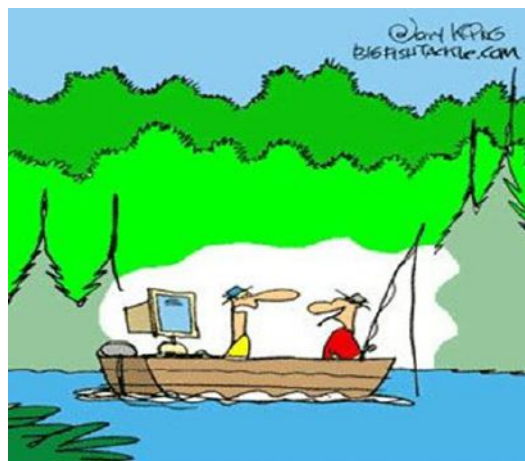
April 6	Steve Schalla	President of Fly Fishers International Southwest Council
May 4	Glenn Ueda,	SoCal Flats Guide Service
June 1		Club Fundraiser and Raffle!
July 6	Butch Paddock	Head Ranger, Lake Cuyamaca

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

We look forward to seeing at our next meeting!

Club Calendar (currently no events listed due to cancellations)

[April Calendar](#)



"Not only did the fish send us a nasty email, it came with a virus."

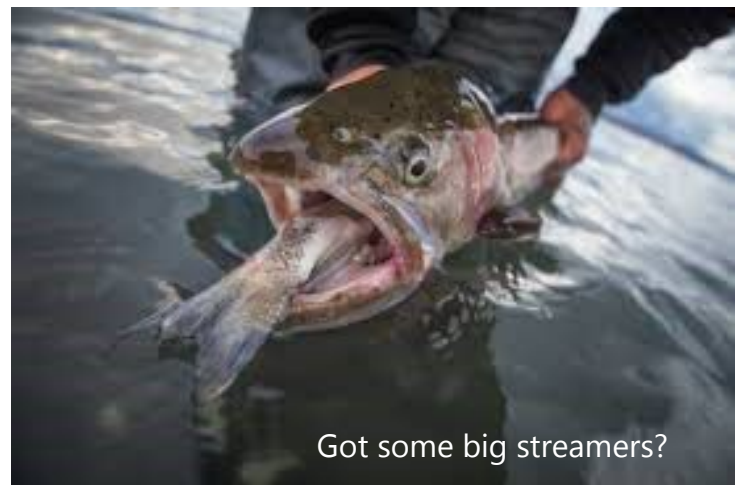
Happenings

On Monday, March 2nd, about 60 SDFE members enjoyed a presentation by **Sam Vasily**, detailing how to catch big Lahontan cutthroats on Pyramid Lake. You've probably seen pictures of anglers casting from ladders with some spectacular results, and a lucky few club members (ahem, Bob Pharoah) have already caught very large fish this way, but Sam explained how the lake can be fished in other ways and at different times of the year, all from a boat.

For example, from mid May through June, (and later in October) he uses a "run and gun" approach from his skiff, spotting bait balls of tui chubs being attacked by trout ranging from 5 to 15 pounds, with even bigger. Casting streamers with 8-9 weight rods, this is fishing much in the style of offshore angling in San Diego, chasing near-shore gamefish. And it turns out that Sam lived for a time in SoCal and already had the love of the chase in his blood.

Sam also detailed fishing Pyramid as a stillwater, like at Crowley, with an indicator. This would typically take place from February through April.

Interesting to learn that the rejuvenation of the fishery at Pyramid Lake was the product of finding and introducing two breeds of cutthroat trout similar to the strain of giants native to the lake, which were extirpated by 1943. The Summit Lake strain has produced fish up to 15 pounds, and with the discovery and reintroduction of the Pilot Peak strain, fish are being taken in excess of 20 pounds. Will they eventually equal the 40+ pounders of yesteryear? Perhaps not, but Pyramid clearly offers a great shot at a huge fish!



The record size cutthroat trout of any subspecies was a Lahontan caught in Pyramid Lake weighing 41 lb. (18.6 kg), although anecdotal and photographic evidence exists of even larger fish from this lake.



Vintage shot of the original strain.

Happenings

It was a dark and stormy day....

Perfect for releasing fish by the Trout in the Classroom kids!



Lake Murray feeder creek, courtesy of the storm



Mel demonstrates tying while Paul hangs on



Trout cocktails courtesy of Bruce Harris



Spirits not damped a bit!

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

Feature Article

"Fishing is about hope and there is always a bit of joy in that hope."

Little Things

By Joel Stewart

My eyes are not what they used to be. I need glasses for everything. It is occasionally frustrating and always humbling. It is getting harder and harder to see little things.

I know I am no longer a young man but neither am an old man. My profession reminds me that I am over the hill because I've been in uniform longer than 75 percent of the folks I serve with have been alive. There are no big signs just little things. The decks seem harder and the ladders steeper. It is the same in the water. The rocks are slicker and the current faster. Not too slick or too fast but little by little I notice.

Every fish is a gift. Sure, there is something in catching a really big fish and I have a lot of pictures of me grinning while gripping a large trout or big bass. I also have a lot of pictures of small fish. The little gems that provide so much entertainment. On small water, sometimes a 10 inch fish is a monster but I still admire a 10 inch fish where I can expect to catch fish twice that size. Sometimes a little fish is a species I've never seen. Sometimes they are the "canary in the mine" for recovering environments. Sometimes they are rare or unknown in the place I am fishing. I treat each fish with respect, including "trash fish" like suckers, carp, mackerel, and smelt. They all are wild things that pull on my line and let me know I'm successful in my endeavor.

I love sharing the sport of fly fishing. I started young and was allowed to develop unfettered by convention. Now, I'm set in my ways and happy to fish how I want to fish. It's not about gear or pictures, it's about fish and the wild places they live. I have an affinity for wild native fish. I am as happy catching six inch brook trout as I am catching 15 pound queenfish because I enjoy the little things: choosing a fly, reading the water, the cast, the thrill of the take, the smell of the sea, feeling the

energy of the fish, hearing the water, admiring the color of the fish be it bright or subtle, and the company I am with. No matter where I am fishing or what I am fishing for, the who is far more important than the what, when, where or how. Even when I am alone, I am not. I have birds, bugs, and other critters all around me. I take it all in enjoying every little aspect of whatever environment I'm in.



Wild native brook trout.

I always try to take note of the environment I find myself fishing in. I've seen some incredible sights watching wildlife while on the water. Giant eels lurking under logs, rare birds watching me from a streamside perch. I've learned it is hard to watch your dry fly when you wonder who might be watching you. Some of the things I've noticed have made me watch my back are lion tracks on a beat in South Africa, grizzly bears in Alaska, and cougar scat in the Montana wilderness. I was scared half-out of my skin when a sea turtle cleared baffles right behind me while fishing in Hawaii. Another time I ended up with a gull in my backcast, something that took a bit of undoing without getting pecked.

Feature Article, cont.

I consider all of these and dozens of other encounters as fantastic details to a fishing story, not distractions or annoyances. It all adds to the joy of the experience, which in the end is what we are fishing for.

By taking delight in all the little things, I can brush off any hint of disappointment at losing a fish or discouragement fueled by a slow day. I don't hop rocks like I used to but I can still bushwack the blue lines. I feel the aches and pains of a day's fishing a tad more than I did a decade ago. However, I delight in the fact that I can go up into the high country alone. I am thrilled that with a bit of magnification I can tie a size 22 fly and attach it to my tippet. Little things make all the difference.

Fishing is about hope and there is always a bit of joy in that hope. Joy leads to wonderment and a happy cycle begins to envelop me when I pay attention to the little things. I don't need my glasses to see that.



Planned Trips 2020

Here are the preliminary outings planned for the coming year.

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

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

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

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

Future trips are subject to postponement based on closures, but we will keep the list posted and hope for the best.

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

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

June 6-14 – Estero Coyote Baja Trip

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

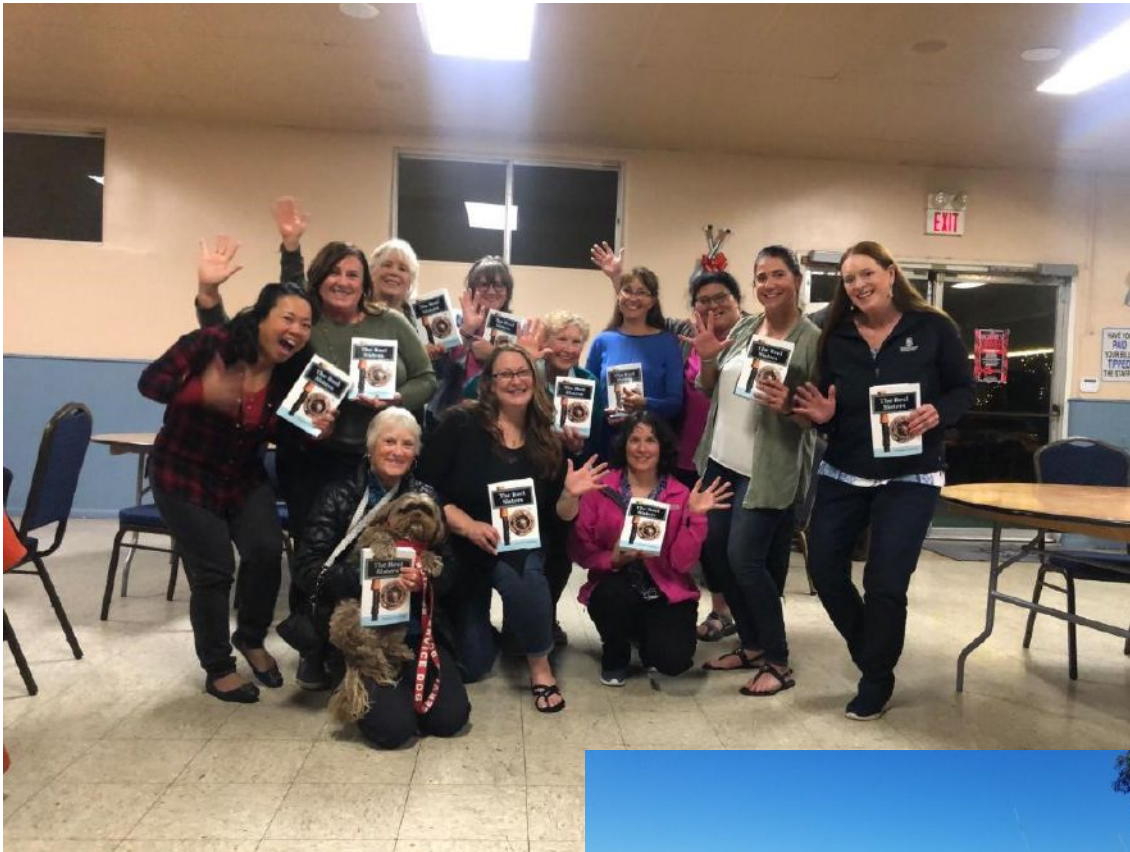
For more information Please contact **Kai Schumann** or look for details in the Indicator. Questions? Contact us at outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com



SDFF Women's Program

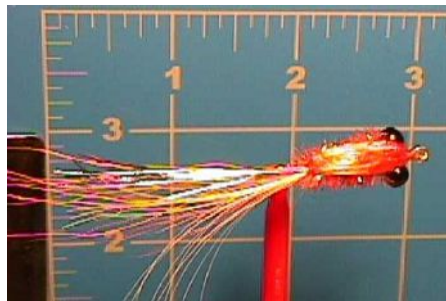
More information about future events as they become available. It will be posted here and on Facebook and the Indicator.

Contact Sherry Ashbaugh, [Women's Program](#)



Fly of the Month

Mrs. Stroud's Estaz Shrimp



- Hook: Mustad 3407 saltwater hook, size 2 or 4
Thread: White or pink 3/0 (color to match)
Eyes: Large bead-chain, painted black, or other colors
Tail: Deer hair or calf tail with pearl or silver Flashabou
Body: Crystal Cactus Chenille or Estaz Chenille – medium or large, color to match.
See web site <http://www.glissengloss.com/estaz/default.htm>
Case: Raffia or Swiss Straw, color to match

Smash the barb and mount the hook in strong vise.

Apply some head cement to the hook shank and then attach the thread behind the eye. Wrap the thread to the bend and back to 2/3 of the hook shank. Make a little saddle of thread to help hold the bead chain or dumb-bell eyes. Take about 23 wraps of 3/0 thread on top of each other to make each bump of thread. Attach the bead chain eyes with figure 8 wraps and lashing wraps under the eyes but on top of the hook to tighten and secure the eyes. Apply some thin head cement or Super Glue on the thread wraps.

Select some deer hair, buck tail or calf tail for the tail. The tail is fairly sparse with about 20 hairs, two hook shanks long. Attach the tail on to top of the hook and adjust the length, secure and trim off the butts. Select four strands of fine pearl or silver Flashabou about 4 hook shanks long. Bring the thread back to the bend of the hook. Lay the flash on top of the hook with the mid point over the bend. Make a few wraps of thread to secure and then fold the flash back while pulling and positioning four strands of flash on each side of the tail. Make several tight wraps to secure; half hitch and apply a drop of super glue or head cement. Attach a two-inch piece of raffia for the future shell back at the bend of the hook.

Select three inches of Crystal Cactus Chenille, strip off ¼ inch of the material and attach the string to the hook at the bend.

Wrap the chenille to behind the bead-chain eyes, tie off and trim excess. Pull the raffia forward, spreading over the chenille and between the eyes. Secure in front of the eyes, trim off excess raffia. Cover all the butt ends with thread wraps and whip finish. Apply one or two coats of head cement or super glue.

The orange version of this fly has been successful in the local surf zone for Barred Perch and Corbina.

Notes by Lucky Ketcham, February 2006.

For more information contact [Lucky Ketcham](#)

Rod Building

Stay tuned for when classes will resume. Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student. Dates will be announced in the Finny Facts.



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

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

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

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

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2020

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

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

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

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

Casting 101 (two sessions)

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

Times and dates to be announced.

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

Session 2 Lake Murray

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

Limit 20

Teach the Teacher- Review

Lake Murray

No Cost

Intermediate Casting Skills (two sessions)

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

Mission Bay/Ski Beach

Cost \$20

Limit to 20

Advanced Casting (2 two sessions)

Learn/Review the Double Haul and casting for distance

Mission Beach/Ski Beach

Limit to 10

Cost \$10

Conservation & Education

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

Golden Trout Wilderness camp and work outing (and of course a little fishing too). Tentatively scheduled for June 24—28, and again in October.

Summer



Fall



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

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

conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Project Healing Waters

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

Help us find Veterans in Need!!

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

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

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

Fly Tying

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

Fly Casting

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



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

Southwest Council FFI

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

Southwest Council Fly Fishers International

Who or What is the Southwest Council?

The Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International represents all of Southern California and Nevada. Fly Fishers International is a 54 year old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. Fly Fishers International and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on a national and regional level.

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

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

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



Membership

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 2020 dues soon.

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

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

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

[Renew online](#)

Contact: [Alan Thompson](#)

Or Renew at the next Monthly SDFF Meeting

SDFF has four membership levels

Individual.....\$40

Family.....\$50

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

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



Membership

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



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

1. On-line at sandiegoflyfishers.com then follow the instructions.
2. A check by mail to:
San Diego Fly Fishers,
10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd. #327
San Diego, CA 92124
3. In Person at the next club meeting.

Thank you,
Alan Thompson
Membership Chair

Volunteers are needed

San Diego Fly Fishers is a service organization.
So please ask yourself...

“What service can I provide to my Club”?

Service Opportunities

Fishing Outings

This is a chance to help run a fishing outing for Club members. We are seeking volunteers to organize a day of fishing on our local waters. It's fun and easy.

Pick your favorite water and contact

[Kai Schumann](#) or [Mike Gilroy](#) and we will help you get started.

- ◆ Pick a local lake
- ◆ Pick a location for the bay
- ◆ Pick a location for the surf

The whole idea is to involve more members in creating fishing events and get us on the water monthly.

Fundraising

- ◆ We need 2 or 3 more volunteers to help serve on the committee
- ◆ Contact: [Sherry Ashbaugh](#)

Greeters are needed at our Monthly meetings!

We are planning to have 2 or 3 greeters at each event to help new people into our Club. It's a great way to serve the Club and meet new Flyfishers.

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

Please contact [Jim Castelluzzo](#)

Project Healing Waters

- ◆ Help with this important program that serves Veterans in need.
- ◆ If you know of a Veteran in need Please let us know!
- ◆ Contact: [Lee McElravy](#) to learn how you can contribute

Women's Program

- ◆ Please contact [Sherry Ashbaugh](#) for information and way to get involved

Fishing!

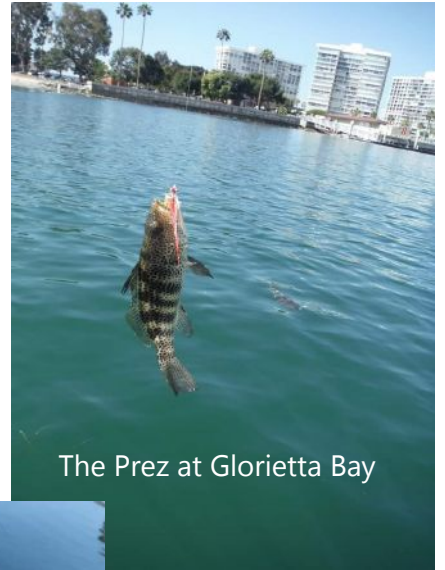
All photos from SDDF Facebook



Liberty Station Double



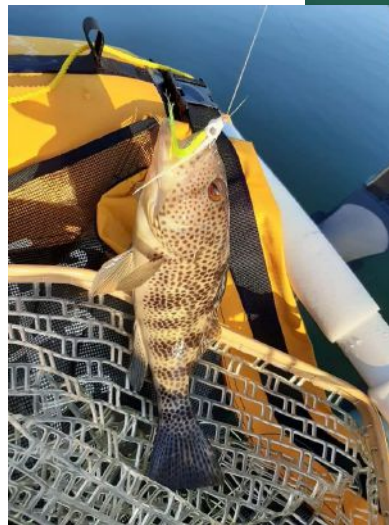
Queenfish are showing up in the bay.
(halibut food!)



The Prez at Glorietta Bay



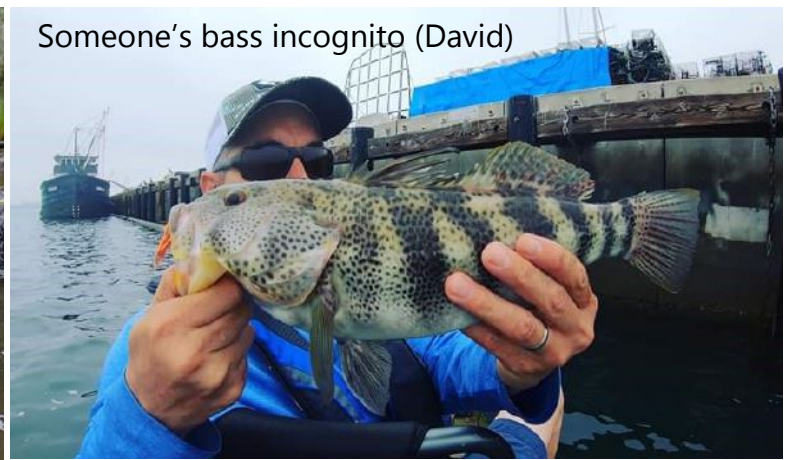
Mel takes one on the red...



And one on the yellow.



Joel's trout in New Zealand



Someone's bass incognito (David)

Guides and Resources

San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse or recommend any particular Guide or Business. This Information is intended to provide the reader with known providers of services related to fly fishing in our local area and in California. This is not intended to be a complete list of available services.

Guides

Eastern Sierra's

[Sierra Drifters](#)

[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#)

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#)

[Kern River Fly Shop](#)

Northern California

[Acosta Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead)

[Fine and Far Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead/Spey Trips)

[Baiocchi's Troutfitters](#)

San Diego Bay/Surf/Lakes

[Conway Bowman](#)

[Alex Cady @ Fly Stop](#)

Fly Fishing Equipment

[STROUD TACKLE](#)

[THE FLY STOP](#)

[Flies by Favorite](#)

River Flows and Reports

[Dreamflows](#)

[USGS Flows](#)

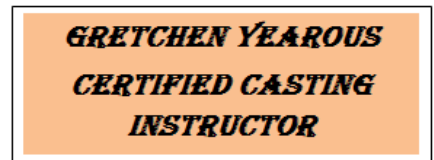
[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)

Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



Bob Berry Fish Carvings



We need your help getting rid of Carp at Lake Cuyamaca!



CARP ANGLERS WANTED, CONVENTIONAL ROD AND REEL, SPEAR, OR BOW

- KILL A CARP and FISH FOR FREE!

Tailing Loops

San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2020

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

Other Chairpersons

Alan Thompson Sunday Fly Casting
Sherry Ashbaugh Women's Program
David Collins Internet Resources Admin

The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the last Monday of each month at the San Diego River Park Foundation Office on Pacific Hwy.

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

The Indicator

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

Follow SDFF adventures and news our FACEBOOK page.
Post your own adventures and pictures.

[San Diego Fly Fishers](#)

Cut-off date for the Finny Facts is the 20th of each month

Please send submissions to:
media@sandiegoflyfishers.com

