

FINNY FACTS

March 2021

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

Volume 44 No. 03

Monday, March 1st, 7:30 p.m.
Club Zoom Meeting

Featuring:

Cody Prentice, Lost River Angler
Fly fishing southern Utah



Time to renew your membership with
San Diego Fly Fishers for 2021

Club Meeting: [Zoom Link](#)



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

Access the Club Calendar: [SDFF Calendar](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Speaker Programs](#)

[Happenings](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Planned Trips 2020](#)

[Women's Program](#)

[Fly of the Month](#)

[Rod Building](#)

[Casting Corner](#)

[Conservation & Education](#)

[Project Healing Waters](#)

[Southwest Council](#)

[Membership](#)

[Volunteers are Needed](#)

[Fishing!](#)

[Resources](#)

[Sponsors](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[Tailing Loops](#)

Please send submissions to
editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

President's Message



Jim Castelluzzo
March 1, 2021

president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

I look forward to spring fishing in the Eastern Sierra and Southern Utah. March 1st marks the effective date of the new DFG Fishing regulations for the Eastern Sierra. Take a close look at these 2021 DFG regulations specifically for the waters you are planning to fish. For example, most lakes are open on March 1 with the exception of Crowley and 18 others which will open on the last Saturday in April. The new Eastern Sierra rivers regulations vary with the locations as well. Rivers listed as Catch and Release 0 take with single barbless hook will open on March 1. Thankfully, the single barbless hook rules have been retained, but most of our local sierra waters will no doubt be subject to more angling pressure.

Speaking of fishing pressure, Southern Utah is a slightly longer drive than the Eastern Sierra but receives far less pressure. This month's speaker will be Cody Prentice, from Lost River Angler, who will discuss fly fishing Southern Utah including the Beaver River and others. This is an area I intend to explore in more detail this spring and I'll share our fish stories.

The other destinations within longer driving range are of course Baja Mexico for epic salt water fly fishing and the Northern California rivers in the Lake Shasta area, such as the Sacramento, The McCloud, The Pit, Hat Creek, and The Trinity. Beyond that the rivers of Oregon hold some great steelhead and trout fishing. All of these locations are worth a look for this coming season. We are all attracted by the Bishop area due to its proximity. On a good day, you can leave San Diego and hit the evening bite on the Owens or Crowley and therein lies the attraction for us and a million other California anglers.

The plan is on for our trip to Baja in June for some exciting fishing in the mangroves south of Guerrero Negro. Our Kai Schumann and John Ashley, the experts, gave us a great presentation on the methods and tactics for fishing these southern Baja estuaries. The inflatable Kayak is the platform of choice, however other shallow water inflatables or skiffs will work as well. I tied a variety of clousers and poppers for this trip last year but Mexico was shut down then due to COVID-19. We are confident that it will be on for June 2021.

Excerpt:

"He always thought of the sea as 'la mar' which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her. Sometimes those who love her say bad things of her but they are always said as though she were a woman. Some of the younger fishermen, those who used buoys as floats for their lines and had motor-boats, bought when the shark livers had brought much money, spoke of her as 'el mar' which is masculine. They spoke of her as a contestant or a place or even an enemy. But the old man always thought of her as feminine and as something that gave or withheld great favours, and if she did wild or wicked things it was because she could not help them. The moon affects her as it does a woman, he thought.... You did not kill the fish only to keep alive and to sell for food, he thought. You killed him for pride and because you are a fisherman. You loved him when he was alive and you loved him after. If you love him, it is not a sin to kill him. Or is it more?"

— Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea

Join us!

Speaker Programs

Zoom!

Monday, March 1, 7:30 pm

Fly Fishing southern Utah

Cody Prentice

Lost River Angler

Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 pm

Fly Fishing the Flats

Capt. Joel Stewart

Join Zoom Meeting : <https://www.sandiegoflyfishers.com/zoom-directory>

A few ground rules so that this call will be enjoyable, Please review the following before you login:

- Everyone who connects to the call will have their audio muted by default. The moderator will control the audio and unmute your microphone when you are going to ask a question or make a comment.
- If you wish to ask a question please send a message to the moderator using the chat function or raise your hand using the participants function (this can be done at any time). The Speaker and moderator will coordinate on responding to anyone who wishes to ask a question.
- We will wait until the end of the presentation to allow people to ask questions and comment. We will call on you and allow you to speak.

Know of someone who would be a good candidate for speaking to the club?
contact either [Jim Castelluzzo](#) or [Tim Huckaby](#)

Happenings

Club Outing, Otay Lake February 13th

Another successful outing for the SDFE. Success, of course, measured in friendship, food, and a few fish. Thanks again to **Kai Schumann** for organizing the trip and feeding the troops, and **Mel Ochs** for submitting the photos. If you haven't done a club outing yet, you ought to give it a try. Next trip: **Glorietta Bay, Coronado, March 7.**



Got one!



Francisco and Daryl



The Prez.



Tom



Andrea



David



Scott

Happenings

SDFF Annual Montana Trip September 2021

Hola Anglers. The club will be headed back to Montana this September! Please consider joining me, Tim Huckaby, and a bunch of other fun club members for the fly fishing trip of a lifetime... again. Yeah, this trip is a bucket-lister... again.... And yes, a few of us have already checked this off the bucket list and plan to do it... again.

Working with lodge owner Mike Hillygus, a long-time friend of the club and multiple time donator to the annual fundraiser, we have picked this exact time of year by design to maximize the best fly fishing.

Summary:

Wednesday, Sept 1st to Saturday, Sept 4th: Stillwater River Outpost

Six SDFF anglers max

Clark Fork Outpost (CFO) 2nd part of the trip mandatory

Un-guided, wading only

Two full days of fishing with partial days on both travel days

\$1,100 / person (\$300/night + \$100/day rod fee)

Stillwater River Outpost (SRO) Lodge details: stillwaterriveroutpost.com/

Saturday, Sept 4th to Wednesday, September 8th: Clark Fork Outpost

14 SDFF anglers max;

Guided, drift boats

Three full days of guided fishing in drift boats with Missoula's best guides

Optional, unguided wading partial days on both travel days

\$2,100 / person - \$550 off regular price; ½ the price of the high-end MT lodges. MT regulates guide fees at \$575/day. Many guides charge more. So, we are getting a sweet deal.

Clark Fork Outpost (CFO) Lodge details <http://stillwaterriveroutpost.com/clark-fork-outpost>

If interested, please send me an email: TimHuckaby@Hotmail.com and I'll get you on "the list" in the priority by which I receive them. We'll do the 50% deposit thing in June timeframe, earliest.



Big Doubles happen frequently on the Clark Fork. This is legendary angler and SDFF club member Tom Rundlett with world famous Missoula fishing guide Sam just a mile downstream from the Clark Fork Outpost three Septembers ago.

Feature Article

FLY FISHING CARLSBAD – AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON By Tim Huckaby

I have written about fly fishing in places all over the world so it's long past time I write about the fly fishing in my own backyard: Carlsbad, CA.



Southern California, including Carlsbad, has a long history of saltwater fly fishing. In the Surf, legendary Fly Fishermen like Al Quatrocchi, Nick Curcione, Kirk Deeter, Dr. Milton Love, Jim Solomon, Glenn Ueda, Bernard Yin, Lee Baermann, Jeff Solis, and others have written, presented, and taught us how to fish the SoCal surf... especially for the elusive corbina. In terms of offshore fly fishing, John Loo. And Conway Bowman always come to mind when fly fishing for Mako's off the San Diego coast.

This article is about fishing Carlsbad's Agua Hedionda Lagoon from a float tube (or fishing kayak). It's funny that I have lived in Carlsbad for 22 years; within a mile of Aqua Hedionda lagoon and I had never fished it until just recently. Mainly because I'm a trout guy and just don't have a lot of expertise in the salt water. Trust me. As I write this I have only fished Hedionda five times so I am no expert. But, because I have had success, I want to share it in case you are interested in catch & release fly fishing it.

Feature Article, cont.

Let me elaborate my two main inspirations and motivations:

1. If you are a SoCal then you have driven by this lagoon many times and stared at it. It's just south of the Tamarack exit on the 5 in Carlsbad. It's the lagoon with the water skiers on the east side of highway. You may have stared at that water and said to yourself, "I wonder if that fishes?" You may have seen kayak fishermen in there and said, like I did for years, "How in the world did they get in there and I wonder if they are catching fish?"



2. Recently, Mel Ochs and Kai Schumann did a SDFC club presentation on how to fish the bays of San Diego in a float tube or kayak. It was outstanding. I learned so much from that presentation. Let me be honest: I serve as the programs chair for the San Diego Fly Fishers club. It is my job to ink the speakers for the club presentations and I have signed up some famous ones, both worldwide and from the list above. So when I roped them into doing this presentation I was a bit selfish in my needs.

Side Note: let me put in a plug for joining the [San Diego Fly Fishers Club](#). It's only \$40 / year and along with all the other benefits, there are two presentations via Zoom per month during the pandemic; in person once we are finally past it. If you want to go fly fish with the group of folks from the club, they go (at a minimum) every Wednesday and would love to show you the ropes of fly fishing the bays.

About Hedionda: The Science and History

Three major highways cross Hedionda: Highway 101 (aka PCH) along the coastline, the train tracks and Interstate 5. These three bridges divide the Hedionda into three sections:

- **outer bay** – just east of the coast highway; closest to the ocean. This section holds the oyster, abalone and white sea bass farms along with Carlsbad's hydro electric power plant and the largest desalination plant in North America.
- **middle bay** – separated by the train bridge and highway 5. This section holds the YMCA aquatic park.
- **inner bay** – east of interstate 5. This section holds California Watersports and numerous homes and condos with docks on the North side and the infamous Carlsbad Strawberry fields on it's south site.

Feature Article, cont.

Hedionda extends 1.7 miles inland and is up to a half mile at its widest point. All three sections are 8-10 feet deep at their deepest part of the high tide....except for the channel that flows the tide to and from the ocean. That channel runs the entire length from the ocean to the head of the bay where Hedionda creek feeds it. The channel is over 30 feet in depth in and around the three bridges. This depth information is important in relation to the fishing. There is more on tides below in the fishing section of this article.

Hedionda is fed by Agua Hedionda creek to the south-east and Lake Calavera Creek to the Northeast. Numerous spring creeks feed those two creeks. But, in reality Carlsbad is a natural desert so a majority of the water feeding Hedionda is simply lawn sprinkler runoff from well into Oceanside and Vista. There is a significant amount of fresh water that enters the lagoon at the head of the bay making that "back-bay" brackish for those that want to chase mullet with a fly rod. When it does rain that creek is a raging dangerous river.

The most amusing part of Agua Hedionda is the name itself: It means "Stinky Water" in Spanish. The reason is most likely because before a small boat harbor was constructed in middle bay somewhere between 1940 and the 50s, the lagoon was not dredged; it was truly a lagoon. Between the decay of vegetation, the mud and the methane escaping it probably was pretty stinky before dredging provided a constant flush of tidal flow.

From the InterWeb: "The main difference between Bay and Lagoon is that the Bay is a body of water connected to an ocean or lake, formed by an indentation of the shoreline and Lagoon is a shallow body of water separated from larger body of water by a barrier."

By way of this definition then Agua Hedionda is a bay; not a lagoon. In fact, it has significant tidal flow just like San Diego or mission bay. There is plenty of great information from the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation.

The history of Hedionda is pretty sketchy but, in the early half of the 20th century Carlsbad was a mostly an agricultural area... boasting the only place you could get the rare and hard to get exotic fruit: the avocado. At that time the bay was not used for anything short of the quickest transportation from the farms to the beach: by row boat. There is some interesting information about the area's history that the Carlsbad Historical Society turned me onto, but, not much on Hedionda itself.

How to fish it

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation says there are 70 species of fish that populate it., but only a small portion of those fish are predators: the type of fish you would be catching with a fly rod. And in my limited experience the spotted bay bass dominates that group. But, I'm a pretty friendly fly fisherman so I did talk to a number of gear guys both on the shore and in kayaks. And they all gladly provided a tremendous amount of knowledge to me. In fact, more than once I'd catch a fish, hold it up to a shore fisherman and say, "what the hell is this?"

There are pelagic fish that wander into Hedionda with the tide. Of those the most common are white sea bass, rays and halibut. But sharks and even corbina are caught there too... along with all the usual suspects you see in the surf. It's worth nothing that any ocean fishing in a float tube is not for the faint of heart for many reasons. That being said, I did fish Hedionda in a tube in January of 2021, the day after the beach in front of it was closed down because of a 15 foot great white patrolling the surf.

Harvesting – I have caught a couple legal halibut and let them go. It's partly because of ~30 years of catch and release fly fishing and partly fear of eating from a bay fed by fertilizers and the cancer causing weed killer, round-up. If I ever do catch a legal white sea bass I'll have a tough decision to make. The white sea bass farm is in outer bay and there are escapees.



People who love eating halibut but have never seen one probably picture it this way: upside down.

Feature Article, cont.

It's all about the tides – Just like any surf or bay fishing in the San Diego area your best success is going to be during an incoming and/or slack tide. In fact, the only time you will be able to fish close to the train bridge or Highway 5 bridge is during a slack tide. Not that it was unsafe, but the very first time I fished Hedionda, this trout fisherman was inches from getting pulled from middle bay under the 5 and out into inner bay. I wasn't paying attention staring at my fish finder as the tide grabbed me. The current during that incoming tide was so strong it was like any large river I have fished before. It took everything I had to paddle my fins away from getting sucked in. I was huffing and puffing more than I have even done on lake Crowley in the wind. Again, I was never in danger, but, if pulled through to the other side I would have had to wait hours for the slack tide to even consider swimming back through again. And it's not like I could have gotten out of the water on the other side and carried my tube back.

Along with the tide, there are a number of things that negatively or positively affect your fishing success. Here are a few:



Notice my blue Garmin Striker Cast fish finder in the background.

Fish finder – My "aha" moment was from the gang of bay fishers from SDFF. They all use portable fish finders. There are some super inexpensive ones from the company "Lucky". You can find them on amazon.com from \$40 and up. After a ton of research, I ended up with the Garmin STRIKER™ Cast GPS. Its list price is \$179. It's an amazing little device that deserves its own gear review on this site. you tether and drag it behind

your float tube. I chose 15 feet (of old floating fly line instead of the cord they included). since you paddle backwards in a float tube it looks for fish right in the zone you are stripping through (as opposed to directly underneath you like all other fish finders). I'll typically cast ~40 feet, let it sink, and strip back. The device uses your smart phone with the Garmin striker app as its UI. It clearly shows depth and structure and the fish in the water column they are swimming in. it even counts the number of fish in the schools. I found myself not blind casting until I saw fish on the finder. but, in one of my fly fishing sessions, after running out of my allotted spousal time, I quickly paddled right across the bay where the fish finder showed a ghost town. For the purpose of straightening out my line and tightly winding it back up I hooked up and landed a nice halibut. It made me late. Oh well, she'll live. After 31 years of marriage, she knows the "one last cast" thing. So, there is the lesson learned. You will not be able to see the halibut on the fish finder because they sit flat and still on the bottom, typically waiting for prey to swim by.

Time of year – I have only fished in winter and done pretty darn well. But, in talking to the experienced gear guys they have all said it gets pretty nuts in spring and summer so I am looking forward to that. They also told me the big halibut come in Hedionda to spawn in spring. Every year I read about 40+ pound halibut being taken in Hedionda by the gear guys. That sure would be fun on a 6 weight.

The moon phases and solunar theory – It's the hunters and saltwater fisherman that believe in solunar theory. Again I have limited experience fly fishing Hedionda but I did fish on a really good solunar day and "killed." Plus I saw a ton of fish on my fish finder. I also fished on a really bad solunar day and didn't do so well...and saw very few fish on my fish finder. Draw conclusions as you may.

Red tide – Whether you believe in climate change or not, the red tides are getting worse and worse each year here in San Diego. I had a bad outing and didn't see a thing on my fish finder only to find out later there was a little red tide going on. FYI, there was a huge fish kill in Hedionda last year (summer of 2020) because of a red tide. Many of the gear guys I talked to were really worried that it would ruin the fishing in Hedionda. It has not.

Feature Article, cont.

Gear

Rod and Line - I use a fast action 6 WT with a sinking line. In my first outing I used a Rio outbound short line and didn't do so well. That outbound is an intermediate sink line. Although it was before my Garmin Fish finder I just felt like I wasn't getting it down to where the fish were. It's like my line wasn't cutting through the current. So, the next time out, I switched to the exact rig I use in Lake Crowley: a heavy sink fully integrated 450 GR integrated heavy sink line. That line really gets down quickly. For a leader I just use 4-5 feet of straight 12lb flouro.

Flies - I tie my version of a clouser. I use synthetics, including EP fibers instead of buck tail. I always tie white on the bottom to imitate the naturals. And I tie in a red patch of flashabou to imitate an injured gill plate. I tie the top in chartreuse, blue and grey in sizes 2 and 4. And they all worked. I fish two flies: a size 2 in front trailed by 18 inches of more flouro and a size 4. I really think color does not matter. But, just like in trout fishing the trailing fly gets most of the hookups.

Here's an example of a couple beat up size 4 clousers I tied, beat up from getting chewed by spotties and halibut. The clouser rides hook up so white is on the bottom. look closely at the red patch that imitates an injured gill plate.



The devilishly handsome author, paddling out just after sunrise.

Epilogue

This may go without saying, but there is nothing peaceful and serene about fly fishing Hedionda. This not like fly fishing the Gallatin canyon in Montana. The freeway noise is constant. And depending on which way the wind is blowing the freeway noise can be downright loud. In fact I had a trucker honk at me while I battled a halibut right off the 5. I raised my fist to him in glory.

I know what you are saying, "Where do I park? Where do I Launch? Where did you catch all your fish in Hedionda? I did write that part and created detailed maps. And then I removed it from this article. Why? Well, in respect to the handful of gear guys that helped me. But, honestly, although it's rare, I recently got a hate mail from a selfish fly fisher that wants his fly fishing location to be his and his alone. So, consequently, doesn't want me publishing this type of info on the public InterWeb. I am a strong believer in conservation by awareness. Granted, for every one "hate mail" I get a hundred emails thanking me for info. Fly fisherman are typically such unselfish, trustable and "giving back" type of people. But, there are exceptions; people are people.

I'd be happy to share that map, parking and fishing location info with you. Send me an email:

<https://www.timhuckaby.com/contact-tim/>

And donate \$5 to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation: <https://www.aguahedionda.org/lagoon>

Editors note: Adapted from Tim's blog, <https://fly-fishing-blog.timhuckaby.com> Huckaby never lets us forget that he fishes for free all over the world on the company dime. Bastard!

Planned Trips 2021

March 7	Glorietta, San Diego Bay, 7:00 a.m.
April 17-18	Shorepounders Imperial Valley Canals
May 15	Bayside Park, San Diego Bay
June 5-12	Estero Coyote, Baja Sur
June 19	Barrett Reservoir (Bass!)
July 11	Shorepounders, North Torrey Pines Beach
August 15	Lake Hodges (Carp!)
Sept 11	Shelter Island, San Diego Bay
Oct. 3-9	La Ventana, Baja Sur
Oct. 16	Lake Cuyamaca (Trout!)
Nov. 14	Tidelands, San Diego Bay
Dec. 18	San Vicente Reservoir (Cold!)

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 **Brooke Sargent**, [Women's Program](#)

Fly of the Month

Tim Garcia's Fancy Clouser

Materials: Red schlappen

Red buck tail

Black buck tail

2/0 hooks

.035 lead wire

Mono thread size .004

X-large dumbbell eyes



Dress hook with eyes, then take a piece of lead wire about two inches fold in half tightly. Right behind the eyes tie wire to the shank. Lead should go from eyes to the very start of the bend of hook. Remove excess wire.

Tail:

(Note: on the hook, as this is a hook point up fly, lighter colors on bottom and darker colors on top.)

Take small amount red buck tail and tie to the shank BEHIND THE DUMBBELL EYES (you are adding length to the fly and buck tail.) Turn hook and apply black buck tail BEHIND THE DUMBBELL EYES.

Body:

Secure Bucky tail tight to shank then wrap up to half way of the shank. Here you'll tie in the schlappen and wrap towards the eyes. Secure schlappen down then wet fingers and pull schlappen to the sides of the fly to make an airplane. Once this is applied finish tying fly with a clouser style with more red and black buck tail. Whip finish the cone and trim.

Finished:

Apply to water and catch a fish!

See diagram on next page

Fly of the Month Cont.



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 nine 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."

Contact: [Jack Duncan](#)

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2021

We are pleased to announce our casting instruction program for 2021. 2020 was a challenging year in many respects and as we look forward to this coming year, we appreciate everyone's patience as we have had to make adjustments to our casting programs.

Lake Murray will continue to be on hold, likely through the first half of the year. We will keep everyone updated when we believe we can restart that program safely.

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 2021. More information on the program can be found on the FFI website.

I will be taking indications of interest the next several months and intend to hold an introductory ZOOM meeting in February to kick the program off.

If you have an interest, please email me at the email below.

Intermediate Casting Clinic: I will plan to hold it later in the year. We will limit attendance to 10. Times and dates will be published when determined.

Contact John: flycasting@sandiegoflyfishers.com



For questions please contact: John Wylie

Conservation & Education

Trout in the Classroom is Back!

SDFF is sponsoring Trout in the Classroom at two schools this winter. One is meeting in session, the other is doing distance learning. Unfortunately, we won't be able to participate in their trout release in March due to covid distancing requirements, but I hope to get pictures to share.

It is great that these wonderful teachers love the program so much that they are willing to work through the added logistical problems to bring this educational tool to their students.



Last year's release on a trout-perfect day at Lake Murray.

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 a good conservation project that needs some support, please share your ideas with the committee.

Gary Strawn
conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com



Due to current restrictions, program is dark until further notice

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 when available to include an evening tying session.

Fly Casting

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





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.

What Has the Southwest Council done for me?

It does nothing for you personally, unless you take into consideration what it has done and is still doing to promote conservation and fly fishing.

- Volunteers from several SWC clubs work with disabled veterans and wounded active duty military personnel in VA hospitals and clinics, as well as military hospitals, as part of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. On-going classes teach fly fishing basics, fly tying, fly casting and rod building, and participants go on local day fishing trips as well as overnight trips. Everything is provided to the participants at no cost. The camaraderie and relationship-building that occurs in PHWFF make it truly unique. The SWC has supported PHWFF since its beginnings in 2007.
 - Council members are continually teaching young and old alike; fly tying, fly casting and fishing techniques, through its member clubs.
 - Council members regularly volunteer to work with the US Forest Service, through FRVC*.
 - SWC members volunteered over 6,000 hours. Contacting over 5,000 forest visitors, educating them about fishing regulations and the care of our Southern California trout streams. In the Angeles National Forest alone,
 - SWC members working with the FRVC*, removed over 10,200 pounds of trash from our streams. All of this was in one year. Continually removes graffiti along numerous streams in our Southern California mountains.
 - Working with the California Fish and Game in the Southern California and the eastern sierras, on stream surveys, allowing better management of our fisheries. Maintains angler survey boxes in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forest.
 - SWC members are continually working to remove invasive plants from our southern California streams.
 - SWC volunteers are continually removing dams along our streams, built by forest visitors. These dams allow silt to build up behind them. This reduces the spawning areas for trout and prohibits their movement up and down stream.
 - SWC volunteers installed a new informational kiosk in Kernville. The kiosk promotes a better understanding of our native fish and state fish, the Golden Trout.
 - The council placed educational signs on Hot Creek in the eastern sierras.
 - SWC volunteers are currently working to rehabilitate the Hot Creek information kiosk.
 - SWC volunteers have gone into the Golden Trout Wilderness with the USFS and DFG. They have done restoration projects, such the rehab on Templeton Meadows. This is an area that had been over grazed by cattle for 100 years. Willows were replanted in order restore the river bank for the native Golden Trout.
 - SWC volunteers have installed mono filament recycle receptacles.
- The list goes on and on, there just isn't room for it all.

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

Membership

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Ready to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers?
Please support your club by planning to renew for 2021**

Regardless of current conditions we still plan an active year with many opportunities to fish and have fun. March, Glorietta Bay!

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**

[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)

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

On-line at sandiegoflyfishers.com 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
- ◆ Contact: Warren Lew [fundraising](#)

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!

Photos from the SDFF Facebook Page



Glorietta Bay Bonita for Michael Copp.



Nice bass at Tim's secret spot (S.D. River?)

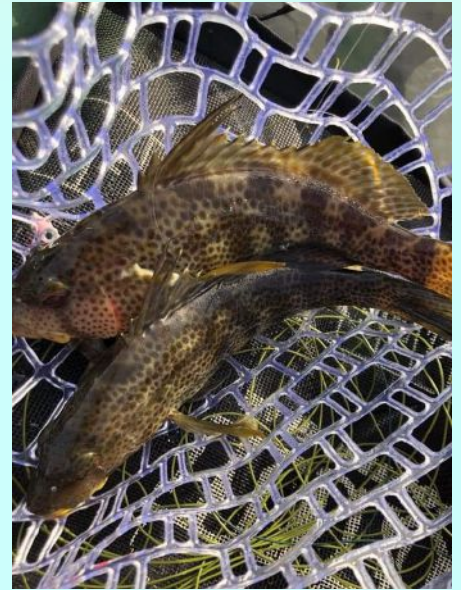


Mel gets another double also at Glorietta Bay.

Join the SDFF at Glorietta Bay on March 7!



Bay ray etiquette: one hand on the nose, pliers on the tail...



Steve Jordan's hits a double at Bayside Park.



Alex puts his float tube to good use!

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:

[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](#)

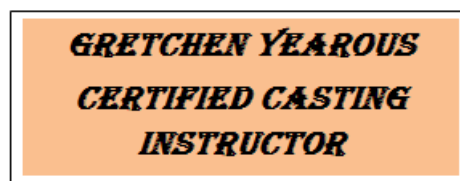
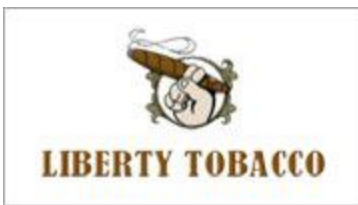
[USGS Flows](#)

[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)



Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



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!

Board of Directors

San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2021

James Castelluzzo	President
Vice President	vacant
Andrea Rae	Treasurer
Mel Ochs	Secretary
Alan Thompson	Membership
	Sunday Fly Casting
John Ashley	Communications Coordinator
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Tim Huckaby	Speaker Programs
Warren Lew	Fundraising/At large
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Gary Strawn	Conservation
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	SWC-FFI Liaison

Committee Chairpersons

Jack Duncan	Rod Building
Lucky Ketcham	Fly Tying Congress
Lee McElravy	Project Healing Waters
Paul Woolery	Community Outreach

	Web Master
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. (Currently held on Zoom.)

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](#)



Tailing Loops

Snipe Hunting San Diego Style

By Mark A. Larky

Please be aware of a despicable hoax that is being perpetrated on members of the SDFF! I goes like this: *You should head down to the beach, watch the incoming waves for corbina, cast a fuzzy pink fly to said fish, and after they casually slurp the merkin, you'll enjoy a fabulous fight, rod bent full circle, prancing down the beach...yesterday we caught five!*

To this I say, hogwash, bull biscuits, balderdash! Trust me, **no one is catching a corbina on a fly!**

These guys are pulling a prank just as preposterous as the "grunion run" and if you believe thousands of amorous fish fling themselves onto the sand in the middle of the night, well, maybe you'd like to purchase some beach front property in Alpine. There's plenty of spawning on the local beaches at night, but it ain't fish.

Anyways, I fell for it last summer, with dozens of texts, emails, and Facebook photos. So, naturally, I strung up the flyrod and armed with the recommended bugs, I walked every likely spot from I.B. to Oceanside, seeing corbina by the dozens, casting at every damn one, nearly bouncing every conceivable fly off their stupid nog-gins. Not a single bite. I curse the name of Al Q!

Now I can take a joke as well as the next guy (except for the time I smacked some clown with my spey rod when he told me I cast like a chimpanzee with a pool noodle), but the fact that respected members of this noble organization, the SDFF, duped me like a drunken sailor is really disappointing. I won't call them out by name, but the president, the former media coordinator, and a rather high-profile woman angler were all involved. As was Ed McCheese (which hardly matters since he actually does cast like a chimpanzee with a pool noodle).

So, they've got the pictures to prove their catches, right? Yeah, right. It doesn't take Columbo to figure out their ruse. Found this info with very little searching:

*Many of California's Native American tribes traditionally used the soaproot species, *C. pomeridianum*, which contains saponin, a fish poison. They would pulverize the roots, mix in water to create a foam, and then*

add the suds to a stream. This would kill or incapacitate the fish, which could be gathered easily from the surface of the water. Several tribes used this technique, the Chilu-la, the Miwok (and, evidently, the cult of McCheese).

Alas, don't fall prey, as I did, to these tricksters!



McCheese secretly reaching for more soaproot while The Prez, standing in poison foam, poses with a fish that is clearly under the influence. Notice, no one has a fly rod.



A seemingly honest lady angler feigns enthusiasm with her doped-up bean, while a former naval officer displays the severed head of a fish he slashed with his ceremonial retirement sword. Again, no fly rods in sight. Have they no shame? I rest my case.

Editor's note:

M.A. Larkey is a frequent contributor to the *Finny Facts*; that is, he frequently contributes, but we've always ignored his submissions. However, due to a sense of charity or some indiscretion involving whiskey, we foolishly went with this one. We apologize to any and all members offended by his comments. With this, the Editor resigns.