

# FINNY FACTS

July 2021

**San Diego Fly Fishers**

Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 44 No. 07

## **Next Club Meeting!** **July 5th 7:30 p.m.** **Southwestern Yacht Club**



**Glenn Ueda**  
***Sightfishing for Corbina!***

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

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

**Club Meeting** [Zoom Link](#)

**Renew your membership with**  
**San Diego Fly Fishers for 2021**

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Please send submissions to  
[editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

# President's Message



**Jim Castelluzzo**  
**July, 2021**

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

We have turned the corner and are now back to the SWYC for our regular Monthly meetings. This month's speaker, Glen Ueda, is timed perfectly as we target the corbina in the surf. Many of us will be traveling to our favorite fishing destinations during the summer and fall. A group from our club had a spectacular 8-day trip to Estero Coyote in Baja Sur. As I mentioned in my FB post, John Ashley and Kai Schumann guided our 7-truck caravan safely to our destination and provided us with awesome meals on both Kai's smoker and Johns portable fryer. With the Campo Rene facilities open for business next year, this will be the perfect Baja fly fishing destination. One of the important missions for our club is our conservation programs. I joined Gary Strawn and his group for a day to the Casa Viejas meadow for a fence repair project in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Tim Huckaby led a group to the Forks of the Kern for a sign installation and trail repair project. This fall the Trout in the Classroom program will start with our partners from The San Diego School District.

Our Conservation and other outreach programs are funded by our fundraisers including our annual winter yard sale and the June Raffle. These fundraisers were suspended due to Covid, but we are now planning for a yard sale this fall and the annual raffle next June. We are in need of a Fundraising Coordinator along with a team of volunteers for both these events. The yard sale is planned for our September 13th Meeting. Please bring your gently used gear donations to me or Strouds Tackle. Please contact me to serve as our Fundraising Coordinator or help with this fundraiser.

A New Yorker Magazine cartoon from many years ago remains in my mind to this day with visions of the impact we humans are having on our world. A couple of Aliens exited their flying saucer in a field, threw out a couple of bags of trash, and then flew away. The preservation of our wild places and rivers, our serenity places, are not guaranteed. We all need to do our part to leave this place better than the way found it.

Excerpts:

*"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."*

*"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink, I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains."*

— Henry David Thoreau

*"I've spent as much of my life fishing as decency allowed, and sometimes I don't even let that get in the way."*

— Thomas McGuane

# Join us!

## Speaker Programs

**Monday, July 5th, 7:30 pm**

**In-person meeting at  
The Southwestern Yacht Club**

***"Ghost of the Coast" Sightfishing for Corbina***  
with **Glenn Ueda**

This meeting will also be carried live via Zoom! [Zoom Link](#)

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

Our guest speaker this month is Glenn Ueda. Glenn is an expert on sighting and catching Corbina in the surf. He is the holder of multiple IGFA records, and is an accomplished guide and instructor on surf fishing.

Glenn started surf fishing at a very early age under the watch of his father. At the age of five he was hurling pyramid sinkers for surf fish throughout the beaches of southern California. Many years later he read an article on fly fishing in Sports Afield and soon began his passion for the sport of fly fishing. He learned how to cast from a family friend who would take him to the Long Beach Casting Club. Soon Glenn fished local parks and the west fork of the San Gabriel River for many fresh water species. However, saltwater was in his veins, and as he grew older his passion turned back to the ocean.



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

# Happenings

**Reopening of Monthly Club Meetings!** We resume our in-person meetings at the SWYC, Monday, July 5th, meeting at 7:00 pm, presentation by Glenn Ueda at 7:30, which will also be carried live on our Zoom site.

## September 13, Fly Tackle Yard Sale at SWYC!

SDFF fundraisers support our conservation and outreach programs. Please collect and donate your gently used fly fishing gear and bring them to the July or August meetings. You can also drop them off at Strouds Tackle or directly to Jim (The Prez). Contact him at [President@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:President@sandiegoflyfishers.com), or text 858 291-2323.

**Casting Instruction has resumed at Lake Murray on Sundays** (Note: program will be dark on Sunday, July 4th, but will resume the following Sunday.)

## SDFF Club Conservation Project:

Gary Strawn led a merry band of 19 volunteers to the Golden Trout Wilderness for maintenance on the fence that protects wild golden trout. See Gary's page on Conservation and Education, and talk to him if you'd like to join the next trip in October!



## Another SDFF Club Project:

Tim Huckaby led a hearty band of trailblazers to the Forks of the Kern for trail repair and to install a sign funded by the club. Evidently, while there, they found a little time to wet the line. We'll have pictures and details next issue.

The SDFF Board of Directors supports the following proposed change to the California fishing license regulations.

<https://ccacalifornia.org/california-assemblymember-jim-wood-introduces-ab-817-to-establish-a-365-day-state-fishing-license/>

**Please send news, updates, reports, suggestions to be shared on this page. We want this media to serve the club in any way it can.**

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

# Feature Article

## Upper Kern River: Backpacking Up River from the Johnsondale Bridge

By Tim Huckaby, April, 2021

(This is a continuation of Tim's story from the June, 2021 Finny Facts. For the full text, see <https://fly-fishing-blog.timhuckaby.com/>)

After getting the mandatory camp stuff set up, I rigged up with a salmonfly imitation and started fishing. Within five minutes I had a 14" kern river rainbow rise up and smack it within 100 feet of camp. I got it to hand quickly, and with a smile, realized it could be a special two days. It was.

So, after making camp I fished my way back downriver.... I couldn't go any farther up river. So, I had waders and I got around the big granite slab I slid down by going in the water. I looked on both sides not wanting to worry about it for 3 days. About 200 feet in front of it was enough dirt to scramble above it. with some bushwhacking about 100 yards there was a way down on the other side. I'm not saying it was easy. But, it was a relief knowing it could be done without getting wet.

It was two days of dry fly fishing. After the first day my 3 salmonfly imitations were totally chewed up, missing wings and barely floating. They were still catching fish. But, at that point I increased my odds and trailed them with size 12 Huck Hoppers in a double dry format. I consistently induced rises even though I only saw a couple natural rises. For the entire 2 days I fished, there never was a need to nymph. I pretty much got a take in every run, riffle, tail-out, pocket water and pool I through at. I was supposed to test my new Huck Perdignons and never got to it. Why would you nymph when you can consistently fish dries? BTW, I did meet a fly fisherman about two miles from where I camped that was nymphing under the bobber and he told me he had a 40 fish day; not a surprise.

Of Interest, I even caught a couple brown trout. They are not native and rare in that river. I didn't have the heart to kill them so I let them go. But, they won't be rare for long. Browns always take over a river. It's just a matter of time. If that river is to remain (a rainbow trout sanctuary) they should be removed.

Interestingly enough, no permitting is required in this stretch of river other than a fire permit, and yeah I did a camp fire. And I did it safely. I put some serious work into building a fire ring that would be safe. I have never



*A brown trout in the upper section of the Kern. I didn't have the heart to kill him, but, I know plenty of people who would have. He fell for a size 12 black huck hopper.*

known that area to not be able to do a fire but, I bet there are times. I was ethically ok with building that fire ring because it was so close to the river it will be completely washed away without a trace in a matter of weeks when the runoff starts. And because....Awful, bitter cold nights. The forecast called for 75 degree highs and 45 degree lows with 5% chance of rain....That would have been nice. That is not what happened. On Friday night it was definitely in the 30s. This was supposed to be my first and only backpacking trip without a calamity. On Saturday afternoon it rained...I have a 3 ounce Columbia backpacking rain shell and at the last minute left it home saying, "5%. There is no way." 3 ounces... Ugghh... I was shivering wet. And the temperature was much colder at sun down than the day prior. Thank god for that fire. In the morning my tent, waders, boots all frozen....

I did lose the fish of a lifetime. We always remember the ones we lose; not the ones we land... The story goes like this: For variety I casted into super deep slow moving water....i have had some epic battles with huge KR rainbows rising from the depths at the forks to grab a Huck Hopper.

## Feature Article, cont.

Well, like in the past, up from the depths came a 2 footer. He whacked it and I set hard. I pulled his head out of the water with my set. I got a good look at him and he was pissed off. The battle was on. He raced to the depths a few times and head shook... but I had a barb on my huck hopper (yes we can do the age old argument on which is better for the fish; barbed or barbless) and I was on 3x so I was not afraid to muscle him back up to the surface each time trying to quickly land him and let him go. I was 15 feet above the water line on a huge granite rock. As soon as I started worrying about how I was going to scramble down to land him safely by looking away at my path down to the water he shook off in the depths. Maybe he hit a snag near the bottom. I don't know. I never will. My "lost fishes of a lifetime list" goes long now. Sigh....

Like every time I fish the upper kern my land to take ratio was really low. I was way under 50% of getting the fish I hooked to my hand to let them go. I have said this a gazillion times, but there is nothing that fights like a Kern River Rainbow. They are just so hard to land. They go ballistic. They just don't give up.

When hiking in, I did meet a totally studly dad and kids, 8 and 10 years, old on their way back from a week of backpacking. Super nice people and I could not get over what great attitudes these kids had. The 8 year old girl explained the trails they took in vivid detail. She had long blond hair matted from a week on the trail. I asked them where the heck they went and the dad said, "the confluence by the forks trail." "Wait, what?" I had no idea you could even hike to the forks up from the JDB. The dad did say the trail disappeared and they basically bushwhacked to the river.

After getting home, I looked at the maps and most of them don't show a trail to the confluence. Only one did. So, there is not much of a trail there. But, for a 14 mile hike I'd be curious to see the forks from the other side of the river this summer. Although technically that is probably illegal. The Rincon trail which starts at the 4 mile mark of the JDB trail goes up the mountain and then northeast way far from the Kern, which supports their story of no trail and bushwhacking. Anyways, they said the fire damage there was impressive. They were on the opposite side of the river from the fire where the forks trail comes down at the confluence. The south side.

No one was within 2 miles of where I camped. There

were two other sets of backpackers camping close to the bridge. I saw one young couple fly fishing way down river on Saturday. On the hike out I saw a handful of people within 2 miles of the bridge.

The river is now rising. The experts are saying we'll only get to 1,000 CFS this year. In the huge years it gets close to 20,000 CFS. Even in this 60% snowpack year, we are most likely not looking at doing this again until the July to mid November timeframe. I'll be dreaming of it every day until then.



*That's a decent sized Kern River Rainbow with a size 12 black huck hopper stuck in his face*



*My tradition of hiking in a steak for the first night. When fires are prohibited, I sous vide them, then sear them in butter on my Jetboil.*

# Planned Trips 2021

**July 11** Shorepounders, North Torrey Pines Beach

Email [Kai Schumann](mailto:kai.schumann@sandiegoflyfishers.com) with any questions,

**Aug 15** Lake Hodges

**Sept 11** Shelter Island, San Diego Bay

**Oct. 3-9** La Ventana, Baja Sur

**Oct. 16** Lake Cuyamaca

**Nov. 14** Tidelands, San Diego Bay

**Dec. 18** San Vicente Reservoir



See Kai about getting your very own SDFF mug!

For more information Please contact **Kai Schumann**

or look for details in *The Indicator*.

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



# Fly of the Month

## ***The Surfin Merkin***

By Paul Cronin, 2008



*"For fly-fishermen of the Southern California surf, spring signals the beginning of corbina season. These fish represent the most challenging sight-casting quarry in our area, and most who are bitten by the corbina bug develop nothing short of a lifelong addiction."*

### **Materials:**

**HOOK:** Gamakatsu SL11-3H #8 to #6.

**THREAD:** UTC 140 Fl, fire orange.

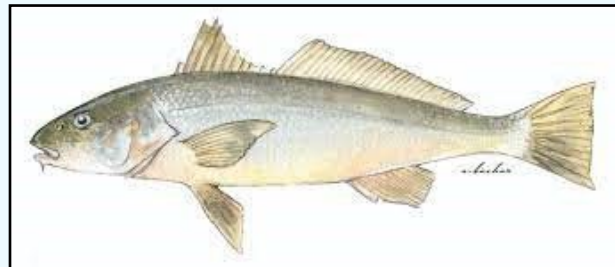
**EYES:** Black Dazl Eyes 1/8" to 5/32".

**LEGS:** Doug's Bugs gray-pearl Slither Legs and three to four strands of UV Krystal Flash.

**BODY:** Silver-gray EP Fibers.

**HEAD:** Six strands of Doug's Bugs hot-orange Electra Flash.

**EPOXY COAT:** Tuffleye, then a coat of Hard as Nails.



**For tying instruction video, please see the site below:**

<https://www.saltwatersportsman.com/techniques/fly-recipes/corbina-crusher/>



# 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.

**Sunday fly casting instruction is back** at Lake Murray with [Alan Thompson](#) at 9:00 am.

**No Casting Instruction on July 4th**

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.

Several of our club members have been working on completing the FFI Fly Casting Challenge Program. Recently **Keith Darlington** successfully complete all three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Also, **Rick Johnson** completed the requirements for Bronze. Congrats to both Keith and Rick!

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

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

## Conservation & Education

June 24-27, nineteen stalwart fly fishers took on the annual task of putting up the cattle exclusion fence in Casa Vieja Meadow at the southern end of the Golden Trout Wilderness. At 8,500 ft altitude the weather was unusually warm and the meadow was dry. But little nine Mile Creek was still running clear and cold and was chock full of golden trout. The work is hard, particularly this year. The USFS mules that bring down new fence for us were busy with the fires so we cut new posts from downed trees. The good news was that the horse riding club had already strung the lower half of the fence. So we had plenty of time for fishing and were not disappointed. The two kids with us each caught more than 20 trout. Bruce Bechard caught a bunch too but didn't count. If you don't mind some physical work and can hike up-hill 2 miles at 9,000 ft plan to join us in October or next June. It's a gorgeous location and we catch pretty fish.



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](mailto:conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

# Other Programs

## Project Healing Waters

**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!

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/>

## 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](#)

## Women's Program

**Plans are in the works for an all-day fly fishing faire on October 23rd.** 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](#)

# SWCFFI

## 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.

Check out programs, such as the trip below, on <https://www.swcffi.org/>

### **Come join us on a fly-only one day saltwater trip out of Oxnard and fish the Channel Islands**

When – July 31 (Saturday), August 31 (Tuesday) and October 30 (Saturday)

Cost – 250.00 per person and includes bunk (bring your own pillow), bait (for chumming up fish), water and a lox/bagels/fixings breakfast. Bring a small ice chest with your lunch and for any fish you want to take home (catch/release is encouraged but keeping something for dinner is encouraged). The boat has coffee and a microwave. Allow 25.00-50.00 for crew tip/fish cleaning.

Anglers – trip is limited to 6 anglers and the host.

Time – The *Island Tak* leaves CISCO's Landing in Oxnard at 4 a.m. and we can board any time after 3 a.m. There are motels in the area if you want to come up early. We will return to the dock around 4-4:30 p.m.

For information, contact **Michael Schweit**, [SpecialProjects@swcffi.org](mailto:SpecialProjects@swcffi.org), **818.6019702**. Feel free to call with any questions.



The **San Diego Fly Fishers** is affiliated with the **Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International** (SWCFFI). [John Wylie](#), Representative

For more information or to join FFI visit: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

# 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 monthly outings  
zoom meetings talking about fishing and having fun.

**Don't miss out! Join or renew!**

You can renew your membership on-line though 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](http://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!



Richard lands a big calico at the jetty!



A nice Barrett crappie for Kim!



Another Barrett bass for Jennifer!



A huge Estero Coyote Corbina for John!

JD finally gets a first fish on the fly!  
(I think mine was a bluegill too!)



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

# 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](#)

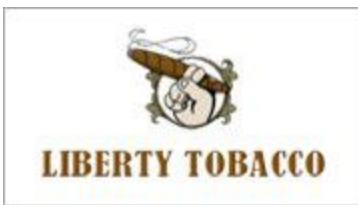
[USGS Flows](#)

[California Data Exchange](#)

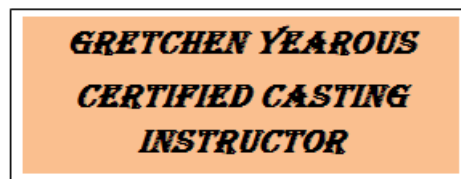
[Lower Owens River](#)



# Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



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!

# Board of Directors

## San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2021

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

## The Indicator

Emailed twice a month with updates and 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](#)

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

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



# Tailing Loops



**Okay, everyone watch me: You just hold the fish and smile!**