

# FINNY FACTS

San Diego Fly Fishers

February 2020

Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 43 No. 2

## March Speaker Program!

*Sam Vasily — Eastern Sierras  
and Pyramid Lake!*



March 2, 7:30 pm  
Southwestern Yacht Club

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## Don't Forget

Time to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers for 2020

# President's Message

We are in the high tech age, 2020, well into the 21st century. You can go to sleep and program your car to drive yourself home, you can start dinner from your cell phone, monitor your kids from your phone, soon you will clone your own DNA, you can drive golf balls in your living room, but they will never replicate the thrill of a trout rising from the depths to take a perfectly presented fly and the take. That's why we are in this game.

I met Bill Stroud over 30 years ago seeking to learn about local fly fishing opportunities and to meet others passionate about fly fishing. I joined the club on regular trips to the famous rivers of the southwest led by the dynamic Jack Bentley. I want to continue that tradition by encouraging out of town trips as well as exploring all the local fishing opportunities at our front door. Larry Sorensen continued the tradition of our Green River trips by teaming with the Arizona Fly Fishers to fish the famous San Juan River in the 4 corners area of New Mexico.

This year we will continue the club's mission by supporting our conservation efforts led by the tireless Gary Strawn, our casting programs led by John Wylie, our fly tying congress led by Lucky Ketchum and our community outreach activities. Tim Huckaby has been putting together a great group of monthly speaker programs for this year. Kai Schumann has put together a varied schedule of outings to local lakes, the bay and surf. This year we are planning two exciting trips to southern Baja. Kai Schumann is leading a June camping trip to Estero Coyote. We are also planning a September 28 trip to La Ventana, Baja Sur, for large Roosters and Dorado on the fly.

The best way to honor the great history of our club, Bill and Eileen Stroud, and past members like Gordon Foster, Jack Bentley, Bernie Fink, and others, is to reinvigorate this club with new members with as much enthusiasm and passion for the art of fly fishing and to continue the tradition of club outings both locally and out of town.

I mention Jack Bentley and Bernie Fink because I have some great memories of outings with them and many others over the years. We all have these little gems in our fishing memories. Jack was loved by all and organized many trips to the Green, San Juan, and Lees Ferry. Bernie was equally loved and hated, trust me. Only guy I ever met that made a guide cry for not finding big enough fish. He could will a fish to strike. I had to go out one night on the Green River to bring him back. He never left the little Hole. He was still fishing well after dark, still catching rising fish in the dark.

I already started my legacy by creating the first drive through fly shop in Bishop. Guides fear me. Get out and make your own epic fishing history this year!

Jim Castelluzzo  
January 22, 2020

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



# February Events

*Editor's note: My apologies, but as this newsletter is late, some dates are clearly passed.*

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Membership meeting<br>@ SWYC on Point Loma   | Feb 3 @7:30 PM  |
| Club Outings, Fish the Beach   | Feb 8 @ 6:00 AM |
| Casting Clinic<br>Fly Casting 101, (Session 2) Lake Murray   | Feb 9 @8:30 AM  |
| Bishop/Owens River Rendezvous  | Feb 20-23       |
| Fly Fishing Film Tour<br>Hosted by The Fly Stop<br>La Paloma Theatre, Encinitas                                    | Feb 27 @7:30 PM |
| Project Healing Waters Fly Casting At Santee Lakes<br>Contact: Lee McElravy,                                       |                 |
| Basic/Beginners Class<br>♦ Every Sunday At Lake Murray @ 9 AM  |                 |
| Intermediate Class<br>♦ First and Third Sundays at Ski Beach on Mission Bay<br>Contact: <a href="#">John Wylie</a> |                 |
| Fly Tying Congress<br>♦ Every Thursday at San Carlos Rec Center @ 6:30 to 830PM<br>Contact: Lucky Ketcham          |                 |

**Sdff is a service organization.  
Ask yourself  
What service can I provide?**

# Happenings

## The Stroud's Banquet, January 13, 2020

We had a good turnout for the annual Stroud's Banquet thanks to a late surge in ticket sales and the efforts of Gary Strawn, for working with the Admiral Baker Club House to put on a great banquet. We had a total of 74 attending including 40 club members. The message I received from many members was to keep the program moving, the speeches brief, and to allow folks time to meet and greet other attendees. I believe we accomplished this.

Kai Schumann stepped up and organized a power point slide show of the clubs past activities including photos of our conservation, outings, and community outreach activities over the past year. This made for a great evening and I recommend we keep this up for all future annual award activities.



Barry Perchersky presented the Gordon Foster Award to my friend, long time member, past President and one of the leaders of the Project Healing Waters programs, Art Reifman.

Paul Woolery presented The Stroud Award to Catherine Miller, President of the San Diego Sports Fishing Council, organizer of the annual fishing season opener Day on the Docks, the annual youth Fishing Derby on Shelter Island, and the Gator by the Bay Music, Food and Arts Festival at Spanish Landing.

We had some great door prizes thanks to Jack Duncan who donated two handmade fly rods; Barry Perchersky for donating two beautiful pieces of pottery; Paul Woolery for donating a custom fly fishing pen, and Sherry Ashbaugh for donating trout themed stationary.

Jim Castelluzzo, President

## Upcoming Programs

Check out these presentations at upcoming club meetings, the first Monday of the month:

March	Sam Vasily	Eastern Sierras and Pyramid Lake
April	Steve Schalla,	President of Fly Fishers International Southwest Council
May	Dr. Eric Huber	Eastern Sierra Regional Director at CalTrout
June	Club Fundraiser and Raffle!	
July	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!

# Time to Fish!

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

**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](mailto:outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

# Happenings

## Fishing Forecast

Heading up to Bishop area in February?



*Large rainbow trout are still entering the river and will continue to do so for the rest of the month. The fishing on the Upper Owens River has been excellent, with big fish in all locations. The lack of snow this year has made access very easy for the most part. The mud starts out as frozen and solid while driving in during the morning, but tends to soften up and get very gooey by the afternoons. You have to be careful driving out as it gets messy out there most days.*

*We have had zero need for snowmobiles so far, and the forecast is not showing any major winter storms. Some minor cold fronts with more wind than snow are all that lie ahead for now. Most of our fish are being caught on egg patterns, but we have been getting some on Flashback Pheasant Tails, Leeches, and Assassins too. The water is very cold, in the 38-39 degree range, so getting the flies to the fish is imperative for hooking up.*

(From **Doug Rodricks**, *Sierra Drifters* website).

# Happenings

## Bishop/Owens River Rendezvous Feb 21-23



Please join us for this fun annual event!

We will leave San Diego early **Thursday, Feb. 20, and stay until Sunday, Feb. 23rd.**

You can caravan with the group or drive on your own time.

Why do we go this time of year?

- The main reason is flow on the Lower Owens is generally lower and allows us to wade the river.
- The Upper Owens holds Snowbows (very large rainbows holding over during the winter months).
- The gorge area flows are lower and fun to fish.
- We also get discounted rates on lodging.
- The entire area is beautiful with snow capped peaks and the fishing can be epic!

Where will we fish? Typically small groups scatter and fish from **Hot Creek** (pictured above) to Lower Owens.

All are welcome to join in and fish some new waters. Don't be shy to ask to join in a small group. Remember it's winter in the Sierras. Bring adequate clothing for cold, snow and windy conditions.



# 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

[Jim Castelluzzo](#) 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: [Jim Castelluzzo](#)

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](#) or [Sherry Ashbaugh](#)

### 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

## Fly of the Month February



**Apologies again!  
I didn't coordinate with Lucky for this month's fly but  
will have the page updated next month!**

(I can "tie" this one and have used it with success on the upper Owens)

# Rod Building

We will plan another class in March of 2020. Stay tuned. Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student.

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.

## JACK'S TIP OF THE MONTH-

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness" was first coined by a Babylonian rod builder about 2,000 years ago



Contact: [Jack Duncan](#)

## Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers is happy to offer two free clinics each month to help you learn to fly cast or improve your skills. Several of our instructors are certified by the FFI and can help anyone develop the skills that will help you get the most out of your casts.

- **Basic fly Casting Lessons**

This Clinic is best suited for beginners and novice fly casters. The clinic will help you develop the basic techniques necessary for successful casts with a fly rod. No experience is required to participate.

Where: Lake Murray (Kiowa Drive entrance)

When: Each Sunday (weather permitting) at 9 AM

What to Bring: You may bring your own equipment or use rods provided by the Club. No fishing license is required.

Intermediate Fly Casting Instruction (This clinic is run by FFI Certified Casting Instructors Dennis Panish and John Wylie and is intended to aid fly casters in enhancing their skills and learn to cast efficiently in different conditions. One goal of the clinic is to help fly casters solve problems with their casting strokes. If you suffer from "wind knots", learning how to "double haul" or increasing your distance this class is for you. Tell our instructors what you want to work on and they will help.

We provide single hand casting as well as basic double hand spey cast instruction.

Where: Ski Beach on Mission Bay

When: First and Third Sundays (weather permitting) at 8 AM (class typically lasts 1 hour)

What to bring: Bring your rod and let's work on your casts!

Questions? Email [John Wylie](mailto:John.Wylie@sandiegoflyfishers.com):

# Casting Corner

In an attempt to create a more focused and structured course of instruction the Club's Certified Casting Instructor John Wyle has created the following new program.

Look for more information regarding sign up's etc.

This is going to be great and you don't want to miss this chance to learn how to make an 80ft cast!

## SDFP 2020 Casting Program Proposed Classes and Timeline

\*\*\*All Sunday Activities at Lake Murray remain the same.\*\*

Casting 101            February/March  
Learn/Review Basics of Fly Casting  
Will cover Equipment, Knots and Basic Fly Casting  
Two 3 Hour Classes  
Limit to 20 participants

Teach the Teacher Review March/April  
Review and Practice Teaching PULD and Roll Casts  
Instructing Best Practices  
One 3 hour class  
No limit/Open to all  
NO Cost

Intermediate Casting Skills    May/June  
Review/Learn Line Control/Loop Control, Accuracy and Presentation Casts  
Two 3 hour classes  
Limit 20 participants

Casting Big Flies            September  
Equipment and Technique in casting big flies  
1 3 hour class    (Possibly combined with fishing on Mission Bay?)  
Limit 20 participants

Advanced Casting    October  
Learn/Review the Double Haul and Casting for More Distance  
Two 2 hour classes  
Limit 10 Participants  
Cost Yes

# 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](#)



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](mailto:conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

# 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>



# 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

Where: The Aspire Center (in Old Town, San Diego)

When: first and third Tuesdays at 9 AM

## Fly Casting

Where: Santee lakes, Santee CA

When: third Saturday at 9 AM



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



# Membership

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR 2020 dues soon.**

2020 is here and time to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers.  
From Alan Thompson:

I'm too tired and lazy to list all the great things this organization does for our members, for the youths of our community, for the conservation of San Diego County and beyond, and yes, we even have time to have fun.

You can renew your membership on-line though the website:  
[www.sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://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)



# Fishing!!!!



Alex caught a big spottie.  
Photo from Bob Pharoah, taken in the bay off Liberty Station.

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

# Board of Directors 2020

## 2020 Board of Directors Roles and Responsibilities

James Castelluzzo	President
Vacant	Vice President
Bruce Harris	Treasurer
Mel Ochs	Secretary
Sherry Ashbaugh	Fundraising
Mike Gilroy	Media Coordinator
Mark Hedderson	Editor, Finny Facts/ Indicator
Tim Huckaby	Speaker Programs
Warren Lew	Fundraising/At Large
Lee McElravy	Project Healing Waters
Kai Schumann	Monthly Outings
Gary Strawn	Conservation
Alan Thompson	Membership
Paul Woolery	Outreach Event Coordinator
John Wylie	Casting Instruction

## Other Programs and Chairpersons

Sherry Ashbaugh	Women's Program
Jack Duncan	Rod Building
Lucky Ketchum	Fly Tying Congress

Web Master Web Site Manager-  
David Collins

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

# 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](#)

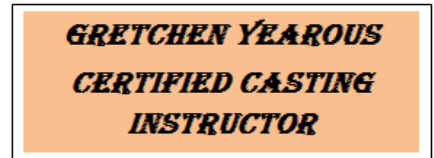
[Lower Owens River](#)



# 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**

Thanks for supporting  
San Diego Fly Fishers



The sale of the year is here! Get prepared now as the start of the season is right around the corner. In order to help fill up your fly box, all flies will be marked **15% off!** That's right! **15% off!** It's the biggest sale we'll be having all year. Use coupon code: **Prep** to save 15%. Buy in bulk and save up to **27%**. Also, make sure to check out the [20 New Perdigon Nymph](#) patterns we've just added as well. Hurry, this sale ends February 12th. Please allow for a delay in shipping, as we expect to be very busy during this time.

The start of the fishing season is right around the corner, and that means some great deals on flies and fly fishing gear. Not only can you save on Midges and Chironomids, but you can also save big on things like the Simms Dry Creek Boat Bag, the award winning Orvis Recon Fly Rod, select Rio Fly Lines, and much, much more! **Use discount code:** Prep at checkout to save 15% on flies. Buy in bulk and save up to 27%. This sale ends Wednesday February 12th. Please allow for a delay in shipping, as we expect to be very busy during this time.