

FINNY FACTS

San Diego Fly Fishers

February 2019 Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing **Volume 42 No. 2**

SPECIAL NOTICE; DUE TO CONSTRUCTION AT SWYC, THE FEBRUARY PROGRAM WILL BE HELD AT SAN DIEGO YACHT CLUB.
Set GPS to 1011 Anchorage Lane, San Diego, CA 92106



This Month's Speaker
David Paul Williams
Topic: Stuff Fish Eat

The big three—mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies—get all the publicity, but it's all the other stuff that makes up the trout diet on any given day. When the fish are eating beetles, all the mayfly imitations are useless. David Paul Williams' presentation covers the other food items that may only make up 10% of the drift but 80% of the diet. Knowing about chironomids, scuds, leeches, ants, dragons and more will greatly improve every flyfish-

er's catch rate.

David Paul Williams caught his first trout while Ike was President and still admires these lovely fish. Author of Fly Fishing for Western Smallmouth (Stackpole Books), he has written about trout, salmon, bass, shad and carp for numerous magazines including

Bio continued on page 10



February schedule

Every Thursday– Fly Tying at San Carlos Recreation Center 6:30-8:00

February 5th– 9:30-11am at ASPIRE in Old Town– Fly Tying

February 16th– Open Classroom– Santee Lakes meet at 9am- Fishing

February 19th– 9:30-11am at ASPIRE in Old Town– Fly Tying
Thanks for the generous Support.





The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the **Stroud Award** to Dr. Sandra Jacobson from CalTrout.

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Next Program

Monday, February 4th at 7pm at
*****San Diego Yacht Club*****
1011 Anchorage Lane, San Diego

Cut-off date for the **March** Finny Facts is **February 15, 2018.**
 Send submissions to:
finnyfacts@gmail.com

Don't Forget

Time to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers for 2019.

It's still very early in the year, but 2019 is looking like it will be full of chances to: fish (of course!), volunteer, learn, make new friends and see old ones, and hopefully fish with your kids, grandkids, spouse and/or significant other. Our annual calendar is shaping up.

This month's speaker will not only talk about the important subject of what fish eat, but will also show you how to replicate those food sources with a fly tying demonstration, so please come early to the meeting to see it, and - as mentioned above - make some new friends and see some old friends. **Please note the different location for the February meeting at the San Diego Yacht Club; this is only for the month of February, due to renovations at our usual place.**

As I mentioned last month, we will be going forward with our sign-ups for volunteer efforts you can contribute to with our club.

Lee McElravy will be providing info on the conservation, outreach, and education programs that we hope you find interesting and be willing to dedicate some time to. Please look for this information at our upcoming meetings.

There is a great opportunity to fish in northern California on the Yuba River coming up in mid-March. See **Mike Gilroy's** notes about this trip in the Finny Facts, on our Facebook page and, as always, on the club web site. You will also hear from Mike on our club communications with you, so please make time to respond to the future surveys on this topic. We need your input.



**The Indicator
E-mailed
Containing:
Updates;
late breaking
Information;
and
Timely reminders**

**Fly Tying Congress
Every Thursday 6:30-8:30 PM**

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at San Carlos Recreation Center at 6445 Lake Badin Ave. in San Diego. Instruction to create your own fly is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--From Interstate 8 take the Lake Murray off-ramp and drive toward Lake Murray. Travel on Lake Murray Blvd. for 1.6 miles and turn left at Lake Adlon Drive (1st corner past Jackson Drive). Go three blocks and the Recreation Center will be on you right.

Annual Stroud Banquet *in Pictures*



The **Stroud Banquet** was a rousing success as witnessed by these smiling faces. *Top left*– a view of the Admiral Baker Clubhouse room with many full tables. *Top right*– a plate full of great food. *Above left*– A carving station with Prime Rib (**Bob Pharoah** smile, you're gonna like this Prime Rib!). *Above right*– Our new club President, **Sherry Ashbaugh** is talking with **Ray Mehl** (Careful Sherry would you trust that smile ?).

Below are the Door prize winners. *Bottom left*– Louis Zimm is holding his carefully crafted **Barry Pechersky** coffee mug. *Bottom Middle*– **Todd McGovern** won the **Bob Berry Carving**. *Bottom right*– **Shelley Wagner** won the grand prize a **Jack Duncan** rod.



Future Event: Bishop Rendezvous February 21-24, 2019

What is the Bishop Rendezvous ?

This is a club sponsored event that is open to all members and their friends. Together we fish, we stay in the same motel, we have afternoon “discussions” , and we eat dinner.

When is this event?

We will leave San Diego early Thursday , Feb. 21, 2019 and stay until Sunday, Feb. 24th.

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 Snow-bows (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.

Where will we fish?

Past history of this weekend event saw many club members fishing the Lower Owens, Pleasant Valley Reservoir, the Owens Gorge, the Upper Owens, and Hot Creek.

What motel do we stay at?

The Elms Motel located in Bishop, California. Here are the details:

Contact the Elms Motel and ask for Harry at: 760-873-8118 or 800-848-9226. There are 9 rooms with a one bed and 7 rooms with 2 beds (includes 2 smoking rooms) **Call the Elms directly to reserve your room.**

If the Elms is full, contact the Travel Lodge next door at 844-422-5811.

Where will we eat our dinners ?

Unless there is a change, Thursday night– **The Mountain Rambler Brewery** on Main Street, Friday Night– **The Bowling Alley**, and Saturday night– **La Casita Mexican**, on Main Street.

What if I have some questions ?

See or contact the Event Coordinators **Lee McElravy** or **Alan Thompson**.

Once I decide to go and make reservations, what do I do next ?

Then Contact me (Alan Thompson) at athompson64@hotmail.com so we will have a count for the evening meals.



Area Guide Services (that we have used)

Sierra Drifters– 760-935-4250

Eastern Sierra Guide Service– Pat Jaeger– 760-872-7770

The Sierra Troutdoorsman -Sam Vasily– 951-764-7146

Performance Anglers Guide Service -Joe Contaldi– 760-965-6527

Fly Reels Part 1: An Introduction

By Craig Smith

Fly reels. “They are just line holders.” We have all heard some variation of that quote. It is the absolute truth for some, yet very far from the truth for others. I have yet to trace back the history of the oldest fly fishing reels, but the oldest example that I have had in my hands dates to the 1850’s. There have been a lot of technical advances since then but reels from 150 years ago still have a lot in common with contemporary reels. They all have a frame, a spool, a handle, and a reel foot to attach the reel to the fly rods.

Fly reels have been made from several different materials over the last 150 years. The most common material for the reel frame and spool used today, and perhaps for the last 100 years, is aluminum. Other materials used include titanium, magnesium, tin, brass, pot metals, carbon fiber, plastics, graphite composites, ceramics, and wood. They have been produced in many colors, and some examples include exquisite engravings or painted artwork. They may have a dull matte finish, or be polished to a high sheen. Components may be produced by casting, computer-controlled machining (or milling), or hand milling, or for wooden examples carving.

Almost all fly reels provide some time of outgoing resistance or braking when line is pulled off the reel. We usually refer to these braking mechanisms as the reel’s “drag”. Any mechanism on a reel that provides resistance is a drag. The drag may provide a constant level of resistance or it may be adjustable. There are several different drag designs that are commonly used. Some are sealed from the elements and others are open and easily serviceable. Some reel drags provide only enough resistance to keep the spool from overrunning when you pull line from the reel while others may provide more than 20 pounds of resistance. You can get reels with an outgoing clicking sound, incoming click, clicking in both directions, and silent in both directions.

Fly reels are available in many different diameters and widths to meet just about every situation a fly angler may encounter

from small panfish to giant tarpon and billfish. Most reel manufacturers will assign model numbers to their reels that correspond to a range of fly line sizes they feel the reel would most commonly be used for (i.e. Abel Super 7/8, Sage 4210, Redington Crosswater 7/8/9). However, you can always put a heavier or lighter line on a reel. Some manufacturers just assign some model number that differentiates one size of their reel from another (i.e. TFO BVK III, Cheeky Limitless 375). They are also available in many different design styles to appeal to our aesthetic preferences.

On most fly reels, the spool rotates once as you move the handle around in a circle one time around. This type of fly reel is referred to as a direct drive or single action reel. There are multiplier models where one complete revolution of the handle around the spool axis causes the spool to rotate two or more times. Multiplier reels are fairly rare. Automatic reels that employ a spring-loaded spool to take up line when a lever is squeezed and held down by a finger until the spring tension is released. There are also semi-automatic reels that use a ratchet mechanism to take up a bit of line each time a lever is squeezed. With all of these types of reel designs the spool does not rotate if the handle is held and when line is pulled of

the reel by a fast-moving fish the handle can get moving quite quickly, potentially resulting in bruised fingers if you are not careful. Some anglers don’t like whirring reel handles. Maybe they work a lot with their fingers or have some other reason to protect their fingertips. For those anglers there are anti-reverse designs that allow the spool to rotate as line comes off the reel while the handle remains stationary.

So what reel should you choose for your rod? I don’t know. There are so many choices available that can range from about \$20 to well over \$2500. While I cannot tell you which reel will work best for you, if you were to tell me where and what you are fishing for I might just have some suggestions based on my preferences and favorites. Over the next few months I will follow up this quick introduction with some more detailed articles that will discuss reel designs, construction, drags, and considerations for selecting a reel.



San Diego Fly Fishers AWARD WINNERS

This year's **Stroud Award** winner is **Doctor Sandra Jacobson, PHD** the Director of Cal Trout's South Coast Region and head of the South Coast Steelhead Coalition. Under her direction the Coalition has grown to include dozens of government agencies and environmental and fishing non-profits.

She has been the driving force behind the tremendous efforts to recover the endangered South Coast Steelhead. She worked tirelessly for many years establishing the genetic "fingerprint" of our native trout, and now leads the efforts to restore four coastal streams to accommodate anadromous steelhead returning from the sea to their native spawning grounds. This work entails the removal of infrastructure such as culverts and check dams and elimination of non-native fish. She has led volunteers from SDFP and Golden State Flycasters on water quality surveys, fish counts and genetic sampling in our local headwaters. You may recognize Sandi from the presentation on the Southcoast Steelhead Recover Project that she gave at a SDFP meeting last year.

South Coast Steelhead Coalition. This year's **Gordon Foster Award** winner is **Barry Pechersky** (receiving the award from last year's winner **Alan Thompson**). He has provided instructional help to Project Healing Waters- Fly Fishing as well as teaching casting at the Lake Murray Casting Center. Barry is also a frequent teacher at the Thursday night Fly Tying Congress and worked with the students from the Trout in the Classroom. Barry has helped our fund raising efforts by donating his pottery.. Thank you, Barry and congratulations.

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Recipients of the STROUD AWARD

Jim Brown.....	2004
Allen Greenwood.....	2005
Hugh Marx.....	2006
Mike Rivkin.....	2007
Bill Van Wulven.....	2008
Larry Bottroff.....	2009
Gary Strawn.....	2010
Bob Fletcher.....	2011
Bill and Eileen Stroud.....	2012
Paul Woolery.....	2014
Louie Zimm.....	2015
Tom Loe.....	2016
Rob Hutzel	2017
Sandra Jacobson.....	2018

GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service to
the fly fishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1992-Bob Camp	2008-Louie Zimm
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2009-Warren Lew
1994-Ed Velton	2010-Paul Woolery
1995-Bob Wisner	2011-Gary Strawn
1996-Gary Hilbers	2012-Lee McElravy
1997-Jack Bentley	2013-David Collins
1998-Gordie Zimm	2014-Lee Anderson
1999-Gretchen Yearous	2015- Jack Duncan
2000-Tom Smith	2016- Bob Pharoah
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki	2017-Alan Thompson
2002-Larry Sorensen	2018-Barry Pechersky
2003-Jim Tenuto	
2004-Joe Bain	
2005-Jim Reeg	
2006-John Kasten	

Let's Fish 2019– The Yuba River

Please let Mike Gilroy know you want to go by February 15th.

YUBA YUBA DOO!

The Club is planning a trip to the Yuba River in March. Mark your calendar for **March 14-18th!**

The Yuba is an amazing dry fly fishery. Located just east of Marysville CA, this adventure does require some driving. I can assure you it is well worth the effort. I have been working with Jon Baiocchi, who is a very knowledgeable guide and steward of the Yuba. I have fished with Jon and he is a great guide. Together we are going to put together this Yuba Adventure.

Basic's:

The Sycamore Ranch Campground will serve as our base camp. This campground is operated by the county parks service and is a great place. Full service with AC power at each site, shower facilities and an RV dump station. The campground also serves as the takeout point for those floating the river.

There are daily use fees for each site. You will be responsible for paying your own fees. Here is a link to the website. <http://www.co.yuba.ca.us/.../publ.../parks/Sycamore%20Ranch.aspx>

In March I doubt that you will need to make an advance reservation. If we have sufficient turnout for this event I will try to negotiate a flat fee for the Club. (more than 12 sites).

We can use the group camp site without reservation if it has not been booked by another group. I will arrive a day early to claim a group area, so we can circle the waders and be together.

It's a long drive! Approximately 10 Hours. Because of this I am making this a 4-day event. You can come for all or any part of the time. I am including Thursday through Sunday so that our members who are work-



ing have a chance to fish on the weekend. One option is to fly to Sacramento and get a rental car if you don't relish the drive.

The Yuba is very accessible for floating or walking and wading. It is my strong recommendation that you consider getting one of the four guides that I have contact information. Each person will be responsible for booking their own guide services. I will post the guide info in a separate post, in the

Indicator and Finny Facts. Jon Baiocchi will be giving us a Yuba 101 presentation on Friday night in the campground. You don't want to miss this if possible.

I will be asking the Board to provide some funds for food. I will plan for a big dinner event in the campground for all participants.

I will provide more details later. For now please let me know if you are interested in joining SDFE in this adventure.

Outing Leader: Mike Gilroy.

You can email me at mjgrota@gmail.com or you can call me at **425-418-8164**. My goal is to have a pretty firm list of folks planning to attend by Feb. 15th.

YUBA YUBA DOO!!!!!!

-submitted by Mike Gilroy



We need your help getting rid of Carp!



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

- **KILL A CARP and FISH FOR FREE!**
- **KILL A CARP and TENT CAMP FOR FREE!**
- **KILL A CARP, PROOF REQUIRED!**

LAKE CUYAMACA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

KILL A CARP!

Future Events



February 2, 2019 9 am - 4 pm
Great Buys on New and Used Tackle
Benefit the Southwest Council Fly Fishers International
LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB 4901 East 7th Street Long Beach, CA 90804

Bring usable and sellable items originally priced over \$40.00 to donate to the Garage Sale and get free admission.

\$13.00 for FFI members, lunch included in admission price, \$18.00 others.
Memberships available at the door.

Call 818. 757.3474 or email specialprojects@swcffi.org

Schedule of Events:



FLY TYING 9-4

Learn from over 20 of SoCal's best Fly Tiers. They will demonstrate their famous patterns and techniques!

GARAGE SALE: 9-4

Please donate items for the fly fishing garage sale. Rods, reels, lines, clothes, vests or accessories. Anything not sold will be donated to Project Healing Waters or as needed by the SWC member clubs. Items must be in working order and have a value of at least \$10.00. A great opportunity to dispose of extras and unwanted items of all matters fly fishing. Please give items to your SWCFFI representative or contact us directly. This is the perfect way to do spring cleaning and to help the SWCFFI!

CASTING 9-4

20/20 Casting lessons: FFI Certified and Master Casting Instructors will be available for personal casting lessons at \$20 for 20 minutes. Tune up your techniques for the upcoming fishing season. Participants will be analyzed by instructors and receives tips to improve their single-hand or Spey casting. Come join in on the fun of casting!

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTIONS 9-4

Take a chance at winning some fantastic raffle items. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. For your bidding pleasure both select and special silent auction items will be on the tables all day. Come and place your bids!

Eastern Sierra Report from Sierra Drifters

Middle Owens River (Bishop Area) 1/16/19

The river is holding at 88 cfs. This has come up a bit which is good for watering the river to move the fish around a little. With flows at their winter release rates for the past couple of months, it has become easier to locate bigger pods of fish. Some nice wild browns have been making a showing in the slower pools around the bends in the river. Streamers like Loebergs, Spruce-a-bu's, Punk Perch, and Agent Orange have been fooling some nice fish recently. We can fish up to 3 anglers per boat and offer half day trips (4.5 – 5 hours) or full day trips (7 hours) to meet your needs.

Upper Owens River 1/16/19

It's game on here folks, as a solid batch of new fish have entered the river during the last storm session. Couple this with another big storm arriving this week and we have the making for some epic winter trophy rainbow fishing. There are still some big browns being caught in the pool sections as well. It has been solid action on these big fish for the past couple of weeks. It may be time to drop the snowmobiles on the river after this next storm cell rolls through. This should in turn keep more of the angling pressure off the river. The section from the Benton Crossing Bridge down to the fishing monument is now closed. Flows are now at 87 cfs. Crystal eggs, #14-16 San Juan worm red, #14-16 Level Crystal Leeches, #14-16 Parallel Assassin Dark and Light, and #16 Broken Back Copper Tiger Midge getting the most bites! The section upstream from the Benton Bridge is open year-round with special regulations. Seasonal closures and angling restrictions apply downstream from the bridge, check regulations before fishing in this section. We walk and wade guide

here. During winter we will access the UO with snowmobiles.

Hot Creek 1/16/19

Flows now at 7 cfs. A change in tactics has been called for but small nymph and egg rigs have been getting the fish to bite here. Midges and mayflies have been showing up daily. Larger size trout have been keying in more on nymphs, strymphs, and worm and egg patterns. It can get crowded here while the weather is mild so finding a good spot on the creek can pay off. #18 mayflies, #18-22 midges, #20 Brassies, and egg and SD worm patterns have been getting some serious looks and takes from the resident trout. This is a year around fishery with special regs in place. We walk and wade guide here.*Tom Loe, Doug Rodricks, Doug Dolan, and Hans Grotewold are under permit from the Inyo National Forest Service to guide Hot Creek.

East Walker River 1/16/19

Still going pretty solid here in the deepest sections of the river. Flows down to a meager 19 cfs but knowing where to fish can yield some real solid fish right now. The fish tend to concentrate in the deepest water this time of year as frigid temperatures and low water have them seeking out slightly warmer water. Lots of juvenile perch have been washing through the pipe and stacking up below the dam area. A good mixed bag of fish sizes are biting on properly presented flies. Target the deepest pools and runs and you can be rewarded with some real beauties. #18 Copper Tiger Midges, #14-16 Parallel Perch, #14-16 Level Leeches, and Assassins dark and light both Parallel and normal have been great patterns to hang. #18 flashback hare's ears, #18wd 40's, and SJ worms also working well.

Pyramid Lake 1/5/19

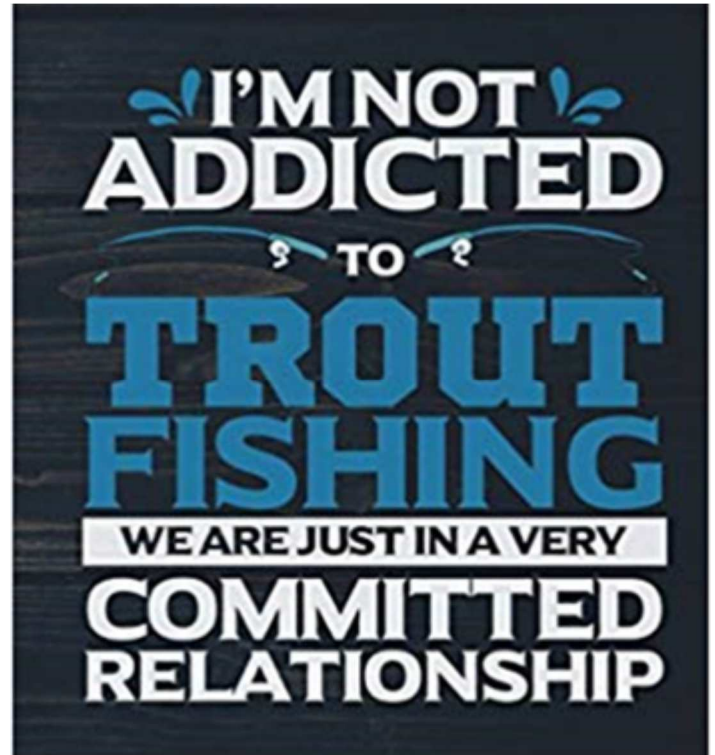
Lots of fish moving in tighter to the beach. Good opportunity now for fly fisherman. Water temperatures have now reached the 52 degree mark and the big cutthroat trout have moved in shallow. We have been seeing fish to 14.5 lbs with some even pushing the 20lb mark. Popcorn Beatles, Midnight Cowboys, #12 Copper and Black Tiger Midges, Parallel Assassins, and Spruce-a-bu's working well. Call for more info.



FREE INTERMEDIATE FLY CASTING 1st and 3rd Sundays at 8am Ski Beach, Mission Bay Park

John Wylie and I (Dennis Panish) are teaching free intermediate fly casting lessons on the first and third Sunday of every month down at Ski Beach Mission Bay. Lessons start at 8 am and run about an hour. I recently received my Casting Instructor certification from FFI. This is open to all SDFP members including beginners and intermediate fly casters.

Funny Page



Bio— continued from page 1

Fly Fisherman, American Angler, Northwest Fly Fishing, Fly Fusion, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Bassmaster, Salmon-Trout-Steelheader, Salmon Steelhead Journal, Backpacker, Northwest Travel, Seattle Magazine. He is a Department Editor of Flyfishing & Tying Journal, the "In The Field" editor for Washington-Oregon Game & Fish magazine and gives enter-

taining media presentations to fishing clubs and outdoor organizations.

He is a demonstration fly tier and speaker at numerous fly fishing expos and sportsmen's shows. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Fly Fishers International and Editor-In-Chief of Flyfisher magazine as well as past secretary and former newsletter editor of the Washington Council FFI.

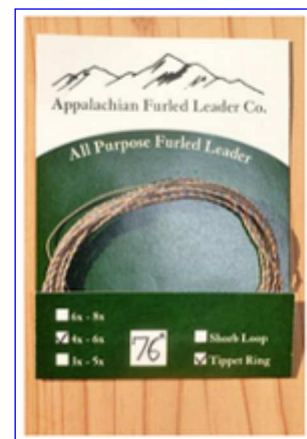
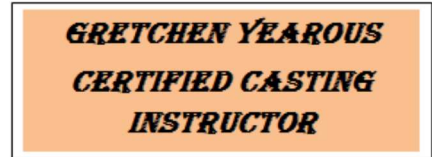
To learn more, go to www.thefishingwriter.com or www.thewriterealtor.com.

FREE CASTING LESSONS
EVERY SUNDAY starting at 9 AM

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors. DIRECTIONS--Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Make a left and continue to the parking lot next to the boat dock. We are to the immediate right of docks under the large cabana. See you there!

Fundraiser Sponsors

A special thank you to our Sponsors. Please Support them with your business.



**San Diego Fly Fishers
2019 Directors**

Sherry Ashbaugh**President**
 Pending.....**1st Vice-President**
 Bruce Harris**Treasurer**
 Mark Hedderson.....**Secretary**
 Bruce Bechard**Programs**
 James Castelluzzo..... **At-Large**
 Jack Duncan.....**Rod Building**
 Mike Gilroy.....**Media Coordinator**
 Warren Lew..... **At-Large**
 Lee McElravy **Project Healing Waters**
 Gary Strawn **Conservation**
 Alan Thompson..... **Membership**
 Paul Woolery..... **At-Large**
 John Wylie..... **SWC-FFI Representative**
 **Casting Instruction**

Other Chairpersons

Alan Thompson**Fly Casting Clinic**
 Lucky Ketcham**Fly Tying Clinic**
 David Collins **Web Master**
 Don Davis.....**Video & Library**

IGFA Contact

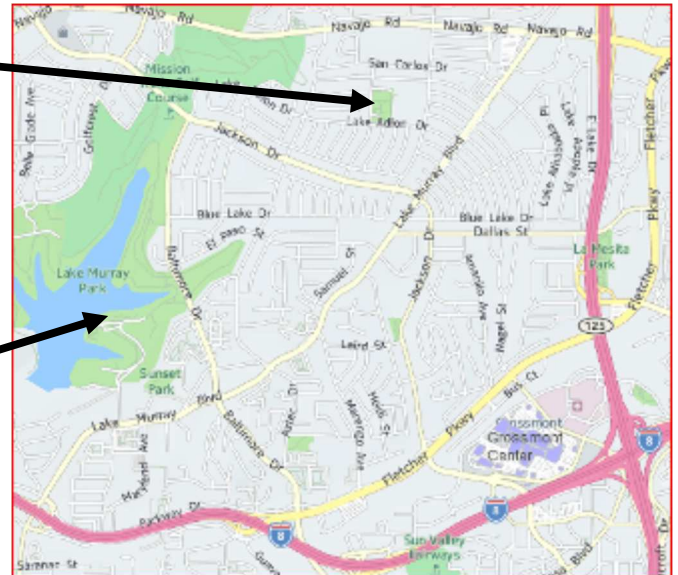
Wesley Woll
 675 S. Sierra Ave. Unit 25
 Solana Beach, CA 92075
 858-481-6386 858-395-9479 cell

Fly Tying Congress
 Thursdays 6:30-8:30

San Carlos Rec. Ctr.
 6445 Lake Badin Ave.
 San Diego, CA 92119

Fly Casting Clinic
 Every Sunday 9 to noon.

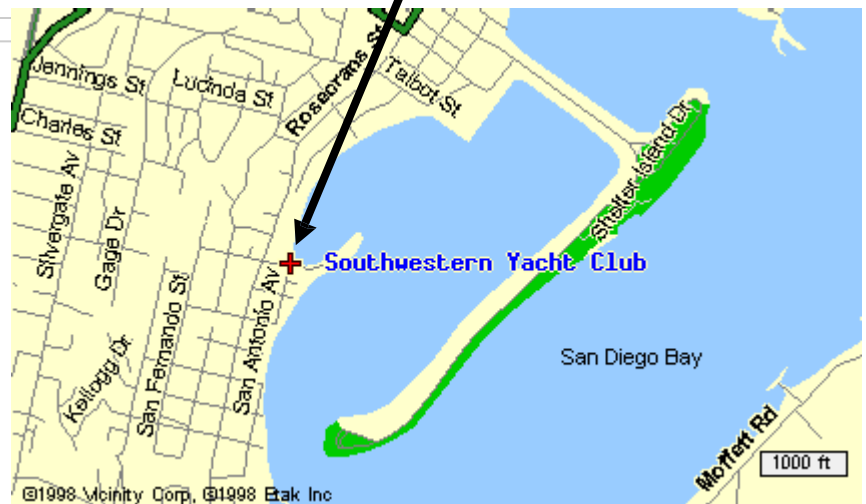
Lake Murray
 Kiowa Dr.
 San Diego, CA 92119



Monthly Programs

First Monday
 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Southwestern Yacht Club
 2702 Qualtrough Street
 San Diego, CA 92106



San Diego Fly Fishers



Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

**Affiliate Club of the
 Fly Fishers International**

Since 1962

Directions from Highway 8 (traveling West) or Interstate 5 (traveling South)

Take Rosecrans exit West to Owen Street
 Turn Left on Owen Street, drive 1 block to San Antonio
 Turn Left on San Antonio, drive 2 blocks
 Turn right onto Qualtrough and follow to SWYC entry-way at end of street.

Southwestern Yacht Club
 2702 Qualtrough Street
 San Diego, CA 92106
 (619)222-0438