

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

OCTOBER 2004

San Diego Fly Fishers



Volume 9, No. 10

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

October Speaker

Local Guide to Talk About Saltwater Fly Fishing

Our speaker for the month of October will be **George Tuthill**. According to his bio retrieved from the internet, Mr. Tuthill grew up in the fishing village of Montauk Point, New York. He started working in the sport fishing industry at a very young age as a deck hand and earned his first U. S. Coast Guard captain's license at the age of eighteen.

By the late 1960's Mr. Tuthill began saltwater fly-fishing and was guiding clients in and around Montauk Point for stripers, weakfish, and bluefish. At that time, saltwater fly fishing was rarely heard of and Mr. Tuthill included building stout rods and tying large streamer patterns to imitate local baitfish with what limited materials were available.

During the past twenty years Mr. Tuthill has been guiding fly fishers and light tackle anglers in the inshore

REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for the October meeting (report at 6:15 PM):

Paul Woolery and Doug Yoshida

Thank you, Mona Morebello

And for something a little different...

Some dry fly action on Blue Lake

By Roger Yamasaki

I don't usually write articles for the newsletter. I've only written a couple of articles because the membership has been really great in providing material. But since the

content is a little thin this month, I thought I would add my two cents to the world of fly fishing.

I spent a week up in the Eastern



Here is your author geared up for the hike to the lake. The trail is quite easy. And who can complain when you have such beautiful scenery.

waters, bays, harbors, and estuaries of San Francisco, Newport Beach, and San Diego.

Come listen and learn from a local guide with local knowledge. 

Sierras last month fishing the usual lakes, Crowley, Silver, Virginia. But I took a trip off the beaten path and did a short ¼ mile hike in to a lake above Big Virginia Lake. Blue Lake is situated at an elevation of 9,740 feet and covers 11.5 acres. We back-packed our float tubes and fishing gear. Although the lake is easily accessible to anglers, my brother and I had the entire lake to ourselves. And the scenery was just spectacular.

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, October 4th, 2004

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

continued on page 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: OCTOBER 2004

After being on the road quite a bit the past few weeks, I am trying to catch up on my reading, which includes numerous news letters from other clubs. I have noticed that the letters from other club Presidents have been getting shorter. Not being one to fight the tide of change, I will be brief.

I did notice some thing of concern in one club news letter. To be very clear, it is a club from "The North State".

They were concerned with a declining membership of about 25% over the past two years and a large percentage of formerly very active members who have burned-out

because of the work load of keeping a club going. The writer lamented how so few did all the work and suggested that if several other members were willing to give just 10 hours per year then perhaps the burnout rate would decline. **That was 10 hours a year!** That is really not a lot of time considering all the good work done by the many fly clubs.

While we are fortunate to have a



GEORGE GATES

stable membership, it can sometimes be a struggle to find new volunteers. Why is that the case? Often people do not want to step up to be completely responsible for something they have no knowledge of or experience with. That is understandable. We have a solution suggested by **Jim Reeg**,

rotating committee membership for our key activities such as the Annual Banquet, Annual Raffle and the Speakers Program. It is really quite simple. You volunteer to be a junior member of a committee so you can learn the ropes the first year. Then you and perhaps one other person are the senior person the following year. This way the work load is shared (maybe only 10 hours a year) and we have continuity from year to year. As we begin the nomination

process for Board positions for 2005, the nominating committee will also be looking for some selected committee positions. Please give these opportunities some thought. If you are interested let Jim Reeg or myself know. Thanks.

I know many of you were off fishing during our September meeting and missed our program by the San Diego River Foundation. It was quite informative. There is a lot of work to be done, but progress is being made toward making the San Diego River a local fishing destination. We made a donation of \$250 to both the San Diego River Foundation and the San Diego Stream Team, which test water quality and identifies the various bugs in the river, to continue their work.

Next month we have George Tuthill, a local bay guide with an excellent reputation. I hope to see you there.

2004 Annual Banquet Set for December 7th

The Annual Banquet Committee has been hard at work to secure a location for the San Diego Fly Fishers Awards Banquet. This year's affair will be held on Tuesday, December 7th at the Clubhouse at the Admiral Baker golf course. Stay tuned for more details.

Great Opportunity Awaits

Have computer skills? Want to know your fellow clubmembers better? The position of membership chairman will be available in January 2005.

Please call Gordie Zimm for details on how you can be a valuable working member of our club.



Our Money at Work!

Every July, we have our big annual raffle to raise money for conservation and education outreach. I have come to realize that we have been remiss in reporting the good works performed with those funds. This year, we made \$5,080 in Annual Raffle ticket sales. Additionally we made \$2,500 in Auction sales and received \$750 in donations. We spent \$2,599.93 on prizes and equipment netting us \$5,730.07.



GARY STRAWN

To date, we have donated:

\$1,000 to Trout Unlimited's "Embrace a Stream" program, for which we will

receive two St Croix Ultra Legend Rods to be auctioned off later.

\$250 to the San Diego River Park Foundation

\$250 to the San Diego Stream Team's volunteer watershed monitoring programs

Additionally, \$857.54 has been spent on educational projects and contributions.

We have budgeted \$1000 to Cal Trout and are working with their new Eastern Sierra Manager, Rob Lusardi, to come up with specific projects in the Eastern Sierra's that can make the best use of our donations. Rob has suggested that we might team with the Auguabonita fly fishers club in

Ridgecrest, to refurbish the information kiosk near the entrance to Hot Creek. The kiosk is getting run down and needs a major refurbishment. Any one interested in working on this project should contact me at

We expect to donate another \$2,000 to conservation and education outreach projects by year end. If you have questions about the projects we support or would like to recommend additional projects, please contact me.

The good works we have done would not be possible without your participation. Thank you all! I would particularly like to thank **Bill and Eileen Stroud**. Without their generous contributions to the raffle and their untiring assistance in selling raffle tickets and "emceeding" the event, we would not be able to support the projects we do. Thank you!

Gary 

From the FFF CEO, RP Van Gytenbeek

Some Projects of Note:

- Cal Trout and FFF have combined forces on a project targeting New Zealand Mud snails.
- The Desert Fly Casters of Arizona are currently working on the White Mountain Apache Trout Management project.
- The Pasadena Casting Club in California is working in conjunction with other FFF clubs, Cal Trout, and TU to provide permanent protections and sufficient water for the San Gabriel River.
- The McKenzie Fly Fishers of Oregon have a call for "Salmon Watch" volunteers, a most successful program which in part derives its curriculum from Washington States Salmon in the Classroom.

One fact that jumps out of the many club newsletters we receive is the cooperation between FFF clubs and our natural allies such as TU, Caltrout, and the many local and regional management agencies. This manifestation of curbing our natural competitive human instinct and joining forces to share credit when due is, after all, one of the underlying reasons that the Federation itself was formed. Unfortunately there is far more need in the conservation world than there is the ability of conservation organizations to serve that need. Thus, when a priority issue presents itself it is well to muster as many allies to the cause as possible.



FLY OF THE MONTH

BRIM FLY

Hook:	Tiemco 100 Size 10
Thread:	Red 8/0
Tail:	White Marabou
Underbody:	Small lead wire
Body:	Gray Chenille medium or small
Legs:	White Rubber Hackle - small
Shellback:	Variegated black and orange Chenille
Head:	Red Thread



1. Place a de-barbed hook in the vise and wrap a layer of thread from behind the eye to the bend of the hook.

2. Wrap a layer of lead wire on the shank from just over the point to the 1/4 point behind the eye. Wrap the lead with thread to secure it in place. Coat the lead and thread wraps with head cement.

3. Tie in the tail at the bend. It should be the length of the shank. Then tie in the shellback and the body material at the bend.

4. Tie in two strips of rubber leg material on each side of the body. You should have two legs on each side extending forward and back. The forward legs should extend beyond the eye and the rear portion should extend to just short of the end of the tail.

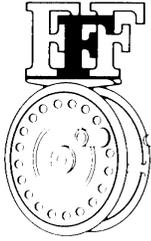
5. Wrap the gray chenille forward to the 1/4 point. Be careful not to wrap it around the rubber legs except you should wrap one wrap over the rubber legs at the mid point where the legs are tied in. Tie off at the 1/4 point and remove the excess.

6. Pull the shellback forward over the top of the body and tie off at the 1/4 point. Trim the excess and form a neat thread head. Whip finish and apply head cement.

This fly is not hard to tie except for negotiating the gray chenille through the rubber leg material. It is a good fly for bluegill, bass and crappie. Probably would work on most any warm water fish.

Good tying, Tom Smith





Overview of Presentation Casts

Overcoming drag (where the fly is caused to drift differently than it would if it wasn't attached to any line; which basically means that the fly line is traveling at a different rate to the fly) is one of the most challenging aspects to fly casting.

Drag problems occur every time we cast across a river. Although some anglers suggest that drag is not a problem with subsurface methods, this is most definitely not the case. Although, there are circumstances when drag can be used to our advantage, such as swinging nymphs out of a current - a great taking zone, on the whole drag is artificial and should be avoided at all costs.

Often there are several solutions to the same problem; it's always interesting to see how different anglers cope given the same set of circumstances - it tells you a little about their psyche, sort of a Freud of the river banks

Getting the fly to land first: Tuck Cast

The most obvious question is not "how?" but "why?"... well there are two situations where I'll use this cast: The first is when fishing 'pocket-water'. Boulder strewn rivers often contain so many varying currents that they present a bewildering puzzle. A simple solution to give ourselves that little bit more drag-free time is to land the fly before the line. So long as we can get fairly close to the pockets (and we can often get right up behind them) we can chuck the fly into position and attempt to keep the line off the water - of course the line will land eventually, but hopefully drag will have been delayed long enough for the deception to have been completed.

The second has nothing to do with overcoming drag; rather it is all about creating attractive 'plop' noises. If we cast our fly to land first it is quite easy

to overpower the stop and get a nice 'plop' sound. Just like little bugs dropping off branches in high summer. Also useful for the cicada splash. In order to get the fly to land first, the technique used is to cast the fly straight over the top of the rod with a slightly overpowered overhead cast, so that when the fly line straightens the extra energy causes the fly to flick downwards. There is an important refinement on this technique; it is how we apply the extra power: instead of stopping harder, stop the tip normally and just as the line is unfurling on the forward cast, lift (or pull back) the rod tip.

Although you can shoot line with this cast, you will have to feed the line through your fingers so that you can stop the line before you lift the tip. Obviously you don't follow through immediately with the rod tip to the surface as this would negate all we have set out to achieve





A beautiful alpine lake, Blue Lake is situated at 9,740 feet, about a 1/4 mile hike above Big Virginia Lake in the Eastern Sierras.

Blue Lake

continued from page 1



Float tubing for trout.

As usual I did most of the fishing while my brother did most of the catching. This lake has rainbows and brookies. The great thing about this lake is that you can have a lot of fun dry fly fishing. The brookies are not picky and easy to catch. My brother, Rick, caught a couple of rainbows on

streamers and 11 brookies on a Royal Wulff. The lake, while small, is deceptively deep at the north end where the water comes in. This is where all of the surface action takes place. This is just a great lake to avoid the crowds, take in the scenery, and have fun

catching a few fish on a dry fly.

Although Rick is a better fisherman than me, his sense of direction needs a lot to be desired. We got off the trail both going up and coming back. And this was only a ¼ mile hike which turned into a 2 mile hike on the way back. Maybe it was the altitude. My boy scout instincts got us back on trail.



And here's the payoff, a beautiful brookie caught on a Royal Wulff.



**FREE CASTING LESSONS
EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON**

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.

Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.

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HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

Winners of the:

GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service to the flyfishing community

- 1991-Ned Sewell
- 1992-Bob Camp
- 1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud
- 1994-Ed Velton
- 1995-Bob Wisner
- 1996-Gary Hilbers
- 1997-Jack Bentley
- 1998-Gordie Zimm
- 1999-Gretchen Yearous
- 2000-Tom Smith
- 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
- 2002-Larry Sorensen
- 2003-Jim Tenuto

Cutoff date for November *FINNY FACTS* articles---Friday October 15th

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
5415 Lodi Place
San Diego, CA 92117
858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at Thanks!!

Send change of address information, signup for electronic version of newsletter, or Club membership renewal to:

Gordie Zimm



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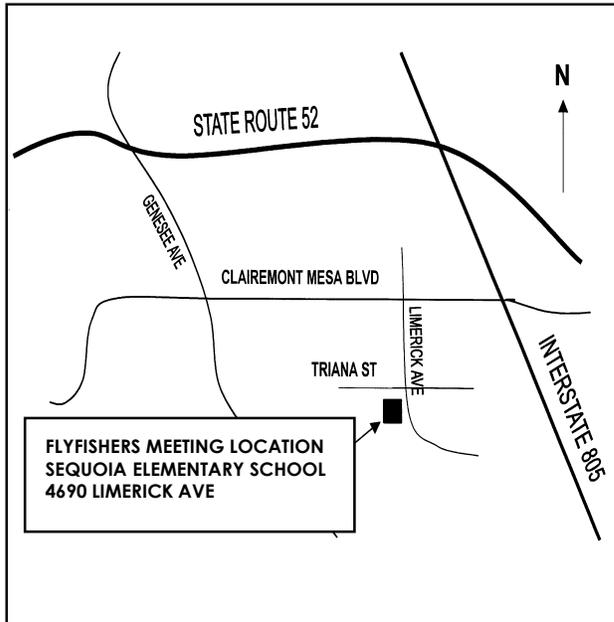
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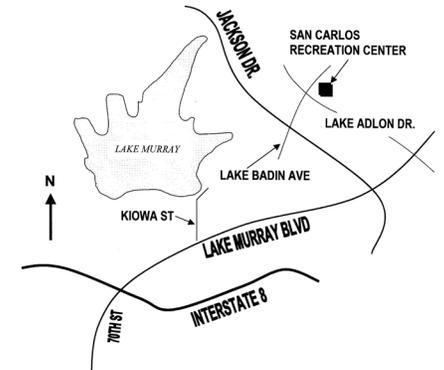


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www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
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Gretchen Yearous

Meeting Place for Workshops
San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at Lake Murray). The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



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