

# FINNY FACTS

**Archive Version**

## San Diego Fly Fishers

**November 2016** Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing **Volume 39 No.11**

**Project Healing Waters– Fundraiser at November Meeting (see below )**  
**Stroud Banquet and Nomination Form starting on Page 6**  
**Membership Renewal Form and On-Line Instruction on Page 3**  
**Clean Out Your Closet IV is only One Month Away– Donations Requested**

### This Month's Speaker



**Chris O'Donnel - Oregon Guide**  
 Steelhead and Salmon Rivers of Oregon  
 ( Bio on Page 15 )

This is a busy time at **San Diego Fly Fishers** as we prepare for the end of the calendar year. A key responsibility for all members is to exercise our duties as citizens of this great nation, **VOTE**. We all get caught up in the national spotlight for the next President but there are many state, local, school districts, and tons of propositions that need our attention and our vote.

Please look at **page 5** for Volunteer Opportunities available to all members. All the programs and outreach to the community is made possible by the generous donations of time and money. **San Diego Fly Fishers does great things for San Diego .**

**Lew Walsh** is busy preparing for the annual **Clean Out Your Closet IV** raffle. He would greatly appreciate any gently used Fly Fishing equipment that you can donate.

**Trout in the Classroom** is proving to be a very popular educational program for our local schools. **SDDFF** will provide the leadership to implement this program and could always use additional help.

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### Bishop Rendezvous

Mark your calendar for our trip to Bishop! The weekend of **February 25-26, 2017**. Make plans to join your fellow **San Diego Fly Fishers** as we fish the Eastern Sierras. More details in the next **Finny Facts**.





**Special Event at November Meeting**  
*There will be a fundraising opportunity for Project Healing Waters-Fly Fishing. Our club has made a commitment to give a helping hand to those who served our nation.*

**Evening Tying Program 6:30 pm**  
 San Carlos Recreation Center  
 October 5, 2016  
 November 2, 2016  
 December 7, 2016

**Outings**  
 November 17, 2016  
**Fly Fishing - Santee Lakes 9:30 AM**  
 December 21, 2016  
**Fly Fishing - Santee Lakes 9:30 AM**

**Next Meeting**  
 Monday, November 7, 2016  
 Southwestern Yacht Club

October 21 & 22 was the 12<sup>th</sup> year SDFF has assisted with the annual Chollas Lake Star/Pal kids fishing derby. Friday morning and late into the afternoon, **Paul Woolery** led the SDFF faithful comprising of **Louie Zimm, Rose and Roger Yamasaki, Lew Walsh, Alan Thompson, Gary Strawn, Bob Stafford, Larry Sorensen, Don Smith, Bob Pharoah, Barry Pechersky, Dan McKirnan, Lee McElravy, Lucky Ketcham, Hal Herritt, Fred Gregory, David Collins and Bruce Bechard** by assembling over 350 rods, reels, line, hooks and sinkers. Friends of the Club Russell Barabe and Dylan Nickerson from the CDFW also assisted. Honorary club member **Bill van-Wulven** and the Road Ranger Bass club assisted with casting instruction for the 150 plus anxious fishers. The end result was happy faces on the kids and turtles, lots of turtles.... and one or two catfish.

The previous Saturday several of our members along with more than 25 area teachers attended the "Trout in the Classroom" training at Mission Trail Park. This program has gone from 3 schools to now they are lined up to participate. Many thanks to **Gary Strawn** and his team of SDFF classroom mentors.

**Bruce Bechard, Alan Thompson and Gary Strawn** have coordinated with the San Diego River Park Foundation the layout and design for the Boulder Creek amphitheater. They pre dug all the footings in mid October and are asking for a few healthy members to join them Saturday morning Nov 5<sup>th</sup> in hand mixing 2300 lbs of concrete and pouring the footings. Your assistance is also requested for Friday and Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> for the assembling and securing of the wooden benches. For more details, contact **Gary Strawn** @ [conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com).

Several members have inquired recently as to the current status of our education/conservation/outreach projects at Boulder Creek and the River Park Learning Center in Mission Valley. As most of you know, these projects are the result of our joint

effort with the San Diego River Park Foundation. After more than five years of financial and human effort, your Board is pleased to report that progress is being made on both fronts.

Originally, the Club and the Stroud Memorial Fund contributed monies to assist San Diego River Park Foundation in purchasing the Boulder Creek property. Those contributions are already recognized via identifying signs and structures at the Boulder Creek location. Very shortly, an education amphitheater will be completed, which will be named in memory of Skip Price, a member of SDFF and Golden State Flycasters, who lost his life while conducting an environmental study on the Creek. Your Board is extremely proud of the role the Club has played in this effort, the potential benefit to future users of this facility and the recognition which will be provided Eileen, Bill and Skip.

In Mission Valley, the River Park Learning Center is taking shape. Construction approval is winding its way through the City of San Diego. The River Park Foundation has already acknowledged that, as a result of the Club's ongoing assistance and contributions, an area of the Center will also be identified in honor of Bill and Eileen Stroud. It is our present hope sufficient space will be made available to provide a permanent "Trout in the Classroom" exhibit, meeting space for the Club and, hopefully, one or more ancillary fly fishing activities yet to be announced.

Plan to arrive early for our November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting where Art Reifman will have Project Healing Waters items for sale until 7:15.



Star/Pal fishing tournament participant and mother with **Bruce Michael** along with her catch a TURTLE ! A great time was had by all and SDFF stepped up to support the kids.

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

Attention San Diego Fly Fishers and Golden State Fly Casters Club Members  
**IFFF Casting Instructor (CI) Preparation Clinic**

**Who:** those interested in passing the IFFF Casting Instructor (CI) Exam

**What:** 2 day CI prep clinic hosted by Dayle Mazzarella, IFFF Master Casting Instructor, assisted by John Adametz, IFFF Casting Instructor. Two full days of training

**Where:** Rohr Park, Chula Vista

**When:** 5-6 November

**Cost:** \$400/person. Max 6 students. 3 slots remaining

Contact: John Adametz





## Training Session at Mission Trails Park Center in Pictures October 15, 2016



On a Saturday morning, several members of **San Diego Fly Fishers** joined representatives from **California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)** and **San Diego River Park Foundation** along with a large group of teachers from San Diego and Riverside Counties to learn about the program **Trout in the Classroom**. The training helped define our role as sponsors and we were able to meet the teachers we will help guide in this worthwhile educational program.

*Upper Left*– **Bob Forthun** opens the training and locally is the lead sponsor representing **San Diego River Park Foundation**

*Upper Right*– The group of sponsors and teachers listens as **Bob** talks about the equipment needs for each classroom

*Lower Left*– The **Blue Man (oops– Blue Shirt Crew)** representing **SDFF**– **Lee McElravy, Bob Stafford, Scott Penwell, Sherri Ashbaugh, Fred Gregory, (missing from photo– Gary Strawn, Alan Thompson)**

*Lower Right*– **Jennifer O'Brien** represented **CDFW** and provided most of guideline for **Trout in the Classroom**



# Volunteer Opportunities

## RECURRING EVENTS

### Every Sunday Morning at 9am

Lake Murray Casting Clinic

Join **Lee Anderson** and his crew. We can always use additional help as the number of students can vary greatly from week-to-week. We are teaching two basic casts: the roll cast and the overhead cast. Bring a comfortable hair, your winning personality, and we will supply the equipment.

### Every Thursday Evening at 6:30 pm.

San Carlos Recreation Center

Meet a group of dedicated fly tyers that are giving instruction as to tying most of the popular flies. For more information contact **Lucky Ketcham**.

### Advanced Fly Casting

Mission Bay Park– Ski Beach area

Join **John Adanetz** as he instructs fly casters in advanced casting techniques. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday at 8am.

### Lend-a-Rod Program

Chollas Lake Park (See Below)

Join **Paul Woolery** every Sunday 11am–2pm as they help youngsters learn the basics of fishing and casting conventional rods. Another way to give back to the community. Contact Paul for more information.

## Casa Vieja Meadow in the Golden Trout Wilderness

Join SDFF members as they make two trips annually, one trip in early summer to repair and set up the cattle excursion fence to protect the fragile mountain meadow. The second trip occurs in the fall to take down the barb wire fence to minimize winter storm damage. While in the meadows, look for the elusive Golden Trout that can be found in the small streams.

### Special Event

## Bill and Eileen Stroud / Skip Price Memorial Amphitheater

at Fisherman's Camp in the Boulder Creek Preserve on Nov 11 and 12 "Veterans Day Weekend". We will construct the amphitheater at the Boulder creek preserve which will be used by many local students as they study the this special preserve. Again we will be giving back to the community.

*The latest plan has a small group of volunteers that will go to Fishermans Camp on Saturday, November 5th to set the metal brackets in pre dug holes with concrete. This will allow the concrete to set before attaching the benches.*

*Gary Strawn will have the latest information. The plans mentioned above may change due to weather concerns.*

## Trout in the Classroom

This event will become a recurring event as we continue to build increase participation by local schools. There is the possibility to raise and release trout three times during the academic year. (see photo below and Page 14 for latest photos from training)



For the Latest Fly Fishing Information Read The Indicator E-mailed By Steve Vissers

# Stroud Banquet

Recognizing the accomplishments of the club and individual members who have made a difference.



**When: Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 1pm to 5 pm**

**Where: Southwestern Yacht Club** (see back page for map)

## Details:

- \$30 per person for a great dinner in a beautiful setting.
- Price includes a door prize ticket!
- Buy Tickets at

Stroud's Tackle

OR

Mail check to:

San Diego Fly Fishers,  
Attn. Stroud Banquet  
10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd., #327  
San Diego, CA 92124

- Spouses and guests are welcome.



San Diego Fly Fishers  
Annual Stroud Award  
Nominee Application Form

**Purpose:** To recognize Individuals for life long achievement in the sport of fishing, or in conservation and environmental causes that benefit the sport of fishing.

**Qualifications:** Individuals qualify if they have made a significant contribution throughout their life or career to the sport of fishing, or to conservation and environmental causes that directly benefit the sport of fishing.

**Nominees** do not have to be a member of the Club to qualify, but all nominees must be sponsored by at least two members of the Club.

**Due Date:** Unless an extension is authorized by the Campaign Selection Committee, applications must be submitted to it by December 15th.

**Procedure:** The Selection Committee, made up of the current Sdff President and the two most recent past Sdff Presidents, will screen all nominees for eligibility and select the top five Candidates. The winner will be selected from the Candidates by a cumulative vote of all past Sdff Presidents.

**When:** The Award will be presented to the winner at the Sdff Club's Stroud Banquet following the selection process.

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Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Qualifications (provide below or attach a brief statement explaining why you're nominee should be considered for the Stroud Award)

Club Member/Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Club Member/Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Fishing Reports



### Heenan Lake

I spent a Sunday afternoon using my float tube where I used a sink-tip line on my 6 wt. rod trolling a rust colored Wooley Bugger trailing a nymph. After about two hour I got hit and brought in the largest freshwater fish I have ever caught. I estimated that it went between 24-28 inches in length and looked very healthy.

*The following is from an online site: [stevenojai.com](http://stevenojai.com)*

The 135 acre Heenan Lake has been renowned for producing huge [Lahonton Cutthroats](#) up to 30" with the average being 16 to 20". The Department of Fish and Game have a station there that takes some spawners from the lake for egg collections. These eggs are distributed to a number of other state hatcheries including the Hot Creek Hatchery and Nevada Dept of Wildlife. The hatchlings are restocked into Heenan and over 30 additional Eastern Sierra lakes. The Heenan Lake Lahontons are actually a hybridized strain of the original Lahonton Cutthroats that inhabited Lake Lahonton in prehistoric days.

The regulations to Heenan Lake are a strict catch and release on barbless hooks on flies or artificial lures. The season opens on the Friday before Labor Day and continues until the last Sunday of October. You can only fish Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The tributaries to Heenan are also off-limit year round. Heenan is ideal for float tubing but has received heavy fishing pressure recently due to its reputation for big trout. Algae can be a big problem as well.

Trolling streamer patterns of Woolly

Buggers, Leeches and Matukus in Black, Purple, or Olive from a float tube has been the favored method to fish Heenan. No gas-powered craft are allowed. It's shallow so an intermediate sinking line is sufficient. Dark colored nymphs in sizes 12-14 such as Pheasant Tails, Bird's Nests, and Prince Nymphs with an indicator also work well. Use a slow retrieve. Recently, using a chironomid pattern has become quite popular when used as a dropper below the nymph from 2 to 6 feet in depth. Allow the rig to sit with an occasional twitch. Generally, an intermediate sinking line is the best bet with a 7-8 foot leader. The Lahontans do not put up as rigorous fight as a similar-sized Rainbow so a leader of 4x to 5X should suffice.

The Lahontans cruise throughout the lake but a popular area is the inlet of Heenan creek at the east end. This is fairly shallow with plentiful weedbeds. Try casting a nymph pattern into the weedbeds and retrieve slowly. The southern end of the lake is also popular with weed beds usually present.



## Fishing Reports



### FISHING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

On October 1st **Lee McElravy, Jack Duncan, Jonathon Hee** and **Paul Woolery** (see above picture) traveled north for a fall fishing trip. Our plan was to fish the Upper and Lower Sacramento River, the Fall River, Hat Creek, the McCloud and the Trinity Rivers. Lee made the arrangements for lodging and Jack secured guides and special permits for fishing the McCloud.



Fishing the Upper Sacramento (see above) on our own was sketchy at best. Fishing the Fall River was okay, depending on which guide you had. Jon and Paul had a fair day. Fishing long leaders and small tippet was challenging. Set too quickly or hard and you would lose the fish. Retrieve too quickly and you would lose the fish.

Fishing the Lower Sacramento was a new experience for us. Again, fishing long

leaders with large nymphs and egg patterns took some getting used to. The guides refer to it as chuck and duck. Casting is more of a lob than a typical cast. We all caught some very nice fish.

The fishing on the Hat and McCloud rivers was tough. The fish on the Hat are very spooky! Stealth is the key word here when stalking the large fish. The water is Gin clear in the lower runs below Powerhouse Number 2. Fishing the riffles below the Powerhouse produced a lot of smalls.

The McCloud was beautiful! Lots of pocket water, riffles and nice runs. Fishing was very slow but towards evening the Tenkara Rod proved very effective!



We decided not to fish the Trinity because of travel time. Instead, we spent a second day on the Lower Sacramento. This was a 12 mile drift and produced a lot of fish. Needless to say at the end of the day everyone was beat!

Over-all it was a great trip! If we were to do it again we would fish only one or two rivers and spend more time on each one.

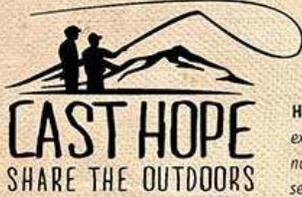
*-submitted by Paul Woolery*



Top– Lee McElravy  
Above– Jon Hee  
Below– Jack Duncan  
Bottom– Paul Woolery



# Future Activities



**C A S T HOPE** is excited to announce their second annual fundraising steelhead tournament on the Trinity River. Working with The Fly Shop and Indian Creek Lodge, they have put together an awesome event limited to just 26 fishermen.

Anglers attending the event will receive 3 nights lodging at Indian Creek Lodge and 2 days of guided steelhead fishing on the Trinity River with The Fly Shop. Each person will be receiving a door prize full of Simms Gear to keep you warm. Event details can be found online at: [casthope.org](http://casthope.org).

This isn't your normal "competitive" fishing tournament. Rather, it's an important fundraising event benefiting a great organization that is working hard every day of the year to help introduce kids to the world of fly fishing: Cast Hope.

Cast Hope is a nonprofit organization providing kids with the gift of the great outdoors. It brings kids and mentors together in nature through the sport of fly fishing. In today's "plugged in" world, Cast Hope strives to break that pattern by immersing young people into the environment through guided fly fishing trips, fishing clinics, fly tying events, camp outs, road trips, and conservation outings, creating a healthy hobby that kids can enjoy for the rest of their lives. The goal is to empower these kids to make fly fishing a sport they can do on their own while conserving and sustaining our natural resources. Cast Hope partners with other non-profit youth organizations to help underserved kids, including Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts, CASA, Wilderness Experience, Youth 4 Change, and others.

When you love interacting in the outdoors, the best response is to give it away, to make it grow, and to protect it. So our desire is to Share the Adventure--to give kids something to look forward to, something to enjoy, something to look back on, something to care for, and something that will positively impact their lives.

If you are interested in attending this event, please email Ryan Johnston at [info@casthope.org](mailto:info@casthope.org).

Check out this short video about Cast Hope: <https://youtu.be/QLZic297wGM>

S T E E L H E A D  
T O U R N A M E N T  
D e c e m b e r 1 - 4

*Includes*  
3 nights Lodging at Indian Creek Lodge and  
2 days of guided fishing with The Fly Shop  
All meals & wine/beer

Door Package  
Simms Dry Bag  
Simms Jacket  
Fly Line  
And Other Great Items

Entry  
\$4,000 per team of 2 anglers or  
\$2,500 per individual  
2 days guided fishing on Trinity River

For Reservations Contact:  
619-540-9259 [info@casthope.org](mailto:info@casthope.org)  
[www.casthope.org](http://www.casthope.org)



## 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 Murphy. 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 your right.

# California Waterfowl Association

**Owens River Annual Clean Up**

**Bishop, California**

**Saturday, February 11, 2017**



Meet @ 8AM Pleasant Valley Campground

Bring gloves and be prepared to help clean up as much of the Owens River as we can. Wear waders if you own them.

Bring family and friends! The more people, the cleaner the river!

Coffee and baked good provided for all volunteers at 8AM &

Lunch will be provided for all volunteers at 12PM

@ Pleasant Valley Campground.

2017 Sponsors include:

California Waterfowl Association – Bishop

Caltrout – Sierra Headwaters Region

Eastern Sierra Fishing Guides Association

Preferred Septic and Disposal – Bishop

Inyo Recycling and Waste Management - Bishop

Silver Lake Resort – June Lake

Trout Unlimited – Eastern Sierra Field Office

International Federation of Fly Fishers – Southwest Council

Talk it up. Bring family and friends. This is our chance to annually clean up Bishop's blue ribbon moving water fishery.

For information on sponsoring or general information call

Chris Leonard. 818.288.3271.

## Instructional Classes offered by SDFF

# Advanced Casting Instruction

with

**John J. Adametz, IFFF Casting Instructor**

**8 to 9AM, first and third Sundays**

**Ski Beach Park**

**Mission Bay Park**

I am offering Advanced Casting Instruction to any San Diego Fly Fishers or Golden State Flycasters club member on the first and third Sunday of each month from 8 – 9 AM starting January 3, 2016. If you are looking to improve your casting or are interested in preparing for and obtaining your International Federation of Fishers Certified Casting Instructor credential, I can help. Let's work together, have some fun, and learn some casting! Please contact me at [john.adametz@gmail.com](mailto:john.adametz@gmail.com) should you have any questions.

John Adametz is a freelance outdoors writer, fly fishing enthusiast and International Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Casting Instructor. He is affiliated with San Diego Fly Fishers, Golden State Flycasters, Mississippi Coast Fly Fishing Club, and Brotherhood of the Junglecock (Maryland Chapter). Any day fishing is a good day!

### 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!

### 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 Murphy. 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.

## Ordering Clothing from Cabelas With our Club LOGO

### CABELA'S EMBROIDERED CLOTHING

Our Club logo is available to be applied to items purchased at Cabela's. Here is the information you will need.

Step 1: Decide what article of clothing you want the club logo to be placed on and write down the number and color you want to purchase. There are good deals on the Corporate Sales book found online. Then choose the logo you will use. Blue lettering LOGO is for light-colored item (**LOGO number 30016093**) or gold lettering LOGO for dark colored items (**LOGO number 30015627**).

Step 2: Contact Cabelas Embroidery at (877) 892-4424 (Telephone), or facsimile at (800) 237-4401. or on-line at embroidery~cabelas.com

Step 3. When connected to the Embroidery Department, Give them the SDFE Customer Club Number when placing an order. This number is **40479874**. You may receive a 0-10% discount by using the Club Number. However, for almost all items there is an embroidery charge of **\$5.00**.

Step 4: Finalize the order and use a credit card to secure your purchase by phone. **If you are ordering by FAX or e-mail, do not include a credit card number.** For security reasons, Cabelas will call you for that information.

Step 5: Check your product when it arrives.

**The Official San Diego Fly Fishers Shirt which is displayed on the right. You can own this special shirt which guaranties that you will stand out in a crowd.**

**Order from Cabelas (see above)  
Item #1K-904591  
Color-Vivid Blue**

**Get Yours Today !**



Embroidery is available locally at **TCB Embroidery** located at 8924 Carlton Hills Blvd. Santee, CA 92071 Phone- (619)-562-2320 Fax (619)-562-3510  
[tcbembroidery.com](http://tcbembroidery.com)

# Eastern Sierra Report from Tom Loe of Sierra Drifters

## Crowley Lake 10/22/16

The bite continues to be excellent during warmer/calmer weather periods. This has been one of the best Octobers I can remember. Access to the marina will terminate on 10/31/16, & shore/tube fishing will be open until 11/15/16. The fish have moved around the drop-offs around Hilton Bay, Alligator Pt., Layton Springs, Six Bays, & Sandy Pt. The bite has been excellent along the submerged weeds in the north end also. 10-13 feet is the depth. Fall is the time for tubers to be looking to troll some larger streamers, & perch fry along what remains of the aquatic weed lines, & drop offs. The larger browns, and cutthroats are on the prowl for larger sources of protein to prepare for the lean winter months. Still water nymphing remains the most consistent way to get into big numbers, and quality fish. Hang your flies above a clean mud bottom in close proximity to a hard weed line for consistent action. The fish are primarily hunting the larva close to the bottom. Broken back midges, crystal zebra, or tiger midges (big ones), & leeches are all good calls while fishing below an "sliding" Under-cator. If you see those midges popping, get out those gillies, broken back gillies, & crystal emergers. These imitate chironomid pupa, the stage prior to becoming a winged adult. My go to rig has been an Assassin; or Drifters Punk Perch #14/16 as the upper, with a dark crystal tiger midge (#14), or broken back copper tiger (#16) as the larva pattern. I had some experienced clients score FIFTY fish in a half day using twin light assassins recently. Keep the tigers 6-12 inches off the deck. I have also been using twin Assassins; or a Punk Perch/Crystal Vandeleech with an Assassin dropper along the weeds. Keep them a foot or more above the bottom. The rookies have been planted in numbers, so treat them with care. You may get into lots of sub-catchable rainbows & browns in some areas like Hilton Bay, or Crooked Creek. \*\*\*Special angling regulations begin on 8/1/16 and will continue throughout the remainder of the season on Crowley. The entry gate to the marina opens at 7am instead of 6am now.

## Middle Owens River (Bishop area) 10/22/16

Flows have dumped to 80cfs. This is very low for late October. The bigs are on the prowl thanks to some brood fish being planted. Drift boat trips are consistently landing some trophy rainbows using the "dip & strip" method of streamer fishing. Good conditions for drifting; however we can only ride two anglers at this release. Wading & crossing are not difficult at rates below 150cfs. Caddis activity will remain solid through late October, with Trico mayflies showing when it begins to cool down in the Owens Valley. It is prime time to book a drift trip as the "catching" is very good currently. Chub & sucker fry will be the primary target for the bigs, so have a selection of streamers like Loebergs, Spruce-A-Bu's, and Punk Perch with a moderate sinking tip line. Good nymphs to have are Assassins, flash back pheasant tails, Drifters Crawlers, olive crystal caddis, olive dubbed caddis, and broken back tiger/zebra midges.

## Upper Owens River 10/22/16

Fish are staging in the north end of Crowley near the inlet, & expectations are high that the fall migration of browns and rainbows will begin as soon as the weather could down. Flows remain at near 100cfs. Much higher than last year at this time, & more than twice what has been moving for most of this year. The migratory bigs historically show in late October. Conditions are fair downstream from the Benton Bridge due to heavy aquatic weed growth. Upstream from the bridge special regulations apply, & the conditions are better above the confluence of Hot Creek inlets. Fishing has been slow, with mostly smaller planted fish in the calmer pools. Use attractor patterns like crystal eggs, & Drifters Crawlers with plenty of weight. Nymphing below an Under-Cator with Assassins, FB PT's, & olive crystal caddis will also get you grabs in the pools. The large wildfire that consumed thousands of acres near Big Springs, and the Glass Mountains is now out. Some historic struc-

tures at the old Alpers Ranch were destroyed.

## Hot Creek 10/22/16

To read what the CDFW is now documenting as to how Hot Creek will be managed **go to the next page**. In short, HC will be receiving some small sub-catchable sized rainbows and browns on 10/6/16. More fish are slated for next spring. This is a significant change in how HC is being managed since the new laws have been implemented several years ago. Hopefully we will get a solid winter to provide much needed flows.

## Pleasant Valley Reservoir 10/22/16

The reservoir level is high making access difficult in the transition area near the inlet. Brood stock rainbows have been planted recently here. The small river section can kick out some good numbers of hold over trout, as well as the big boys using dry/dropper rigs, & streamers. Flows have dropped, & this fertile little river can be really fun if you work the harder to reach brush areas accessible when the powerhouse is not generating. I like dry/dropper combos like Stimulators, hivi mayfly, or caddis as the upper. Use smaller Assassins, FB PT's, or crystal tiger midges as the nymphs. Tubers can have a blast here as well, & it is a great place to fish as a back up spot for Crowley if the weather becomes nasty up the hill. Use full sinking; or heavy sink tips to get down ten feet quickly. Loebergs, Crystal Leeches, Agent Orange, Spruce-A-Bu's, & Punk Perch will get you grabs.



# Eastern Sierra Special Report on Hot Creek

**Date:** 09/23/2016

**To:** Kevin Shaffer- Fisheries Branch Chief (acting) CDFW

**From:** Jeff Weaver- Heritage and Wild Trout Program Leader CDFW

**Subject:** Hot Creek fishery status

Hot Creek (Mono County) is an iconic western river, well known for its outstanding fishery for trophy rainbow and brown trouts, as well as high catch rates in an exceptionally aesthetic setting. It was among the first group of waters designated as Wild Trout Waters (1980), owing to its renown as a destination sport fishery. For unknown reasons, the Hot Creek fishery appears to have declined substantially in recent years, with markedly lower catch rates and few trophy (>18") fish coming to the creel. Drought-related impacts are the suspected cause, including low flows, lack of flushing flows in late spring/early summer to mobilize fine sediments and expose spawning gravels, potential changes in water quality/chemistry and increased aquatic vegetation. Recent single-pass electrofishing surveys (August, 2016) were consistent with angler reports, with low densities and few larger fish captured or observed in both the public section below Hot Creek Ranch and within the Hot Creek Ranch property.

As part of the adaptive management process, and in an effort to adhere to the criteria set forth in Fish and Game Code (Sec. 1725 et. seq.) and Fish and Game Commission Wild Trout Policy, it has been determined stocking of Hot Creek is warranted at this time. Current plans include stocking 12,000 sub-catchable fish each year, of which 8,000 will be Hofer-strain rainbow trout and 4,000 will be brown trout. These fish will be provided by Hot Creek Hatchery and will be stocked at three locations. At each location approximately 1/3 of the total allotment will be stocked. Specific stocking site locations remain to be determined, depending on access feasibility, but will include one or more locations within the designated Wild Trout section.

All stocked trout will have the adipose fin removed and the Department will perform outreach and possible roving creel census to gather data from guides and anglers in order to monitor numbers caught by species, size of catch, catch rates, and the proportion of adipose-clipped fish contributing to the fishery. Angler survey box sites (three) on Hot Creek will be utilized for information posting and outreach. Department staff will contact appropriate organizations (e.g., the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guides' Association) to articulate the need for, and request assistance with, post-stocking monitoring.

The short-term plan includes stocking approximately 3,000 sub-catchable rainbows and 4,000 sub-catchable browns in early October, 2016 due to limited availability, age/size of available fish and timing restrictions. Thereafter, the annual allotment of 8,000 rainbows will be stocked each spring/summer and 4,000 browns will be stocked each fall for the following two years (2017, 2018).

The Department is planning to perform annual single-pass electrofishing surveys in 2017 and 2018, in order to evaluate relative abundance, the proportion of hatchery to wild fish, ratio of rainbow to brown trout, size class structure, and to try to document natural recruitment within the fishery. If these surveys document high levels of wild recruitment, as evidenced by a substantially increased proportion of young-of-year fish with adipose fins intact, stocking may be discontinued at any point. Multiple-pass electrofishing surveys will be performed in 2019 in order to develop density and biomass estimates and eliminate the inherent survey limitations associated with single-pass electrofishing (non-closed section; high likelihood/ability of fish to evade capture). Data from these surveys, coupled with ongoing fishery/angler-focused data collection (ASB forms, possible creel census data, personal communications with guides who frequently fish Hot Creek with clients, etc.) will direct future management. While it may appear counterintuitive to stock a designated Wild Trout Water, Cali-

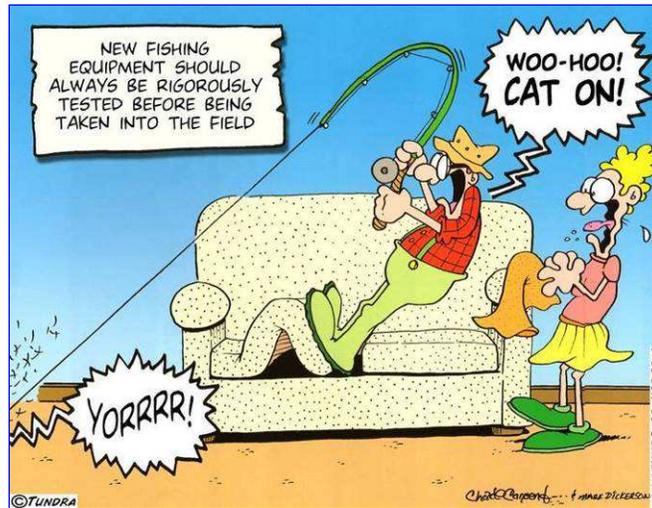
fornia Fish and Game Commission Policy allows for such stocking under specified terms and conditions. The Commission Designated Wild Trout Waters Policy, under subsection I.B. states that designated waters should be: "Able to support, with appropriate angling regulations, wild trout populations of sufficient magnitude to provide satisfactory trout catches in terms of number or size of fish." Subsection II.A. states: "Domestic strains of catchable-sized trout shall not be planted in designated wild trout waters." And Subsection II.B. states: "Hatchery-produced trout of suitable wild and semi-wild strains may be planted in designated waters, but only if necessary to supplement natural trout reproduction."

Given the planned planting of sub-catchable sized trout, the apparent low natural recruitment in Hot Creek in recent years, and the lack of wild trout populations to sustain the fishery, this effort is in keeping with Commission Policy

## Chris O'Donnell—Bio

Our speaker for November will be Chris O'Donnell and fishing guide from bend Oregon. He will be talking about the steelhead and salmon rivers of the Oregon Coast Range and the high gradient streams that run through it. He will cover Spey fishing in five local rivers in the Tillamook Bay area... the Nestucca, Trask, Wilson, Kilchis, Nehalem, and a few others. They vary in character and there is almost always something in prime shape

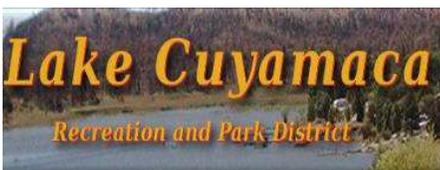
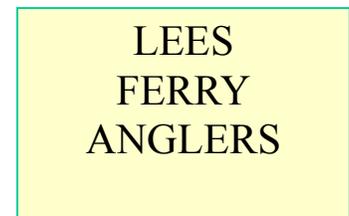
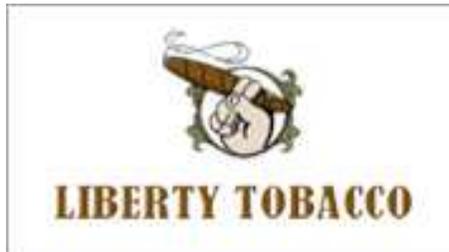
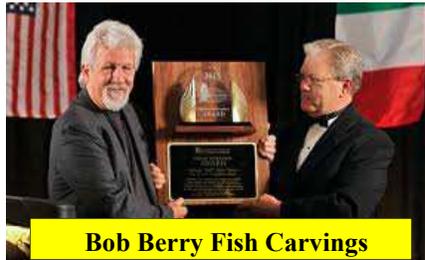
## Funny Page

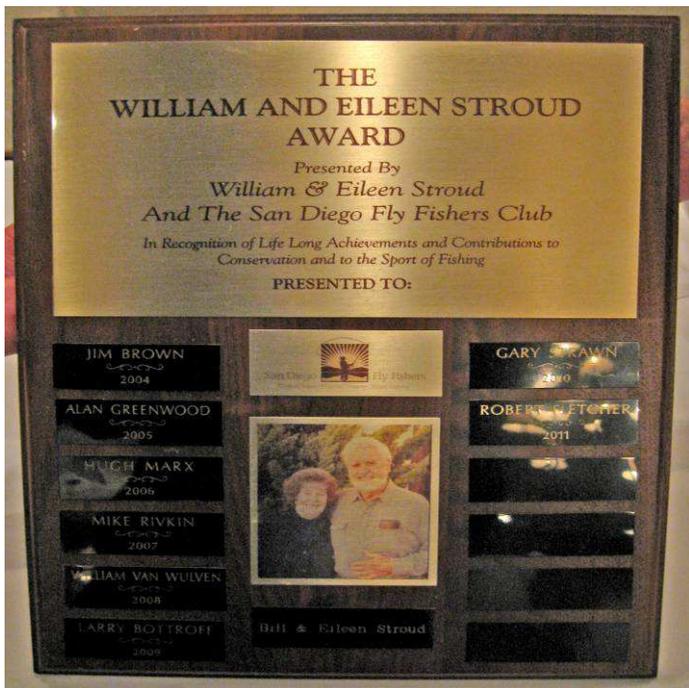


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Cut-off date for **December Finny Facts** is Friday-  
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Send articles to:  
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WEB Address at bottom of this page.

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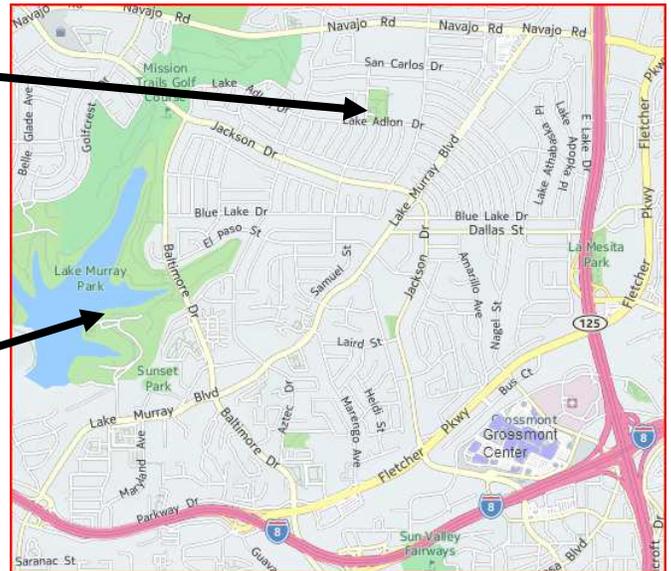
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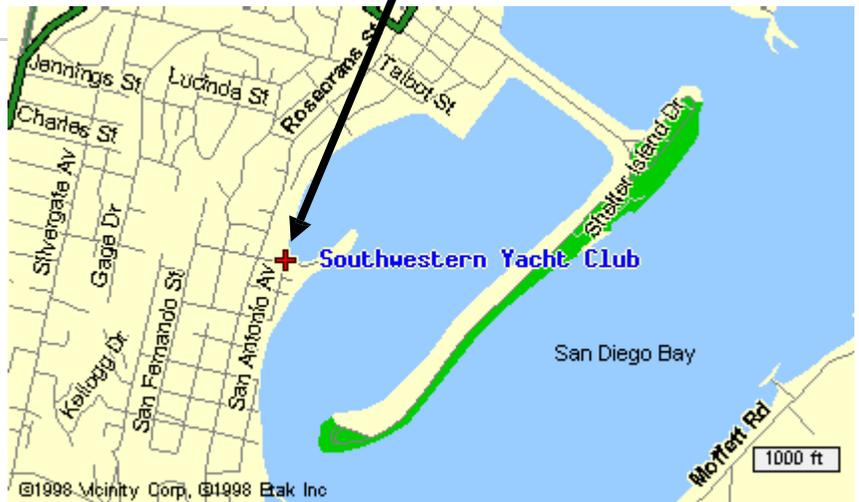


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