San Diego Fly Fishers

FINNY

March 2018

Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing Volume 41 No. 3

Craig Smith's Article- The Strip Set (or Strip Strike) on Page 5 Project Healing Waters and Trout in the Classroom on Page 7 Special Notifications– Last Minute Additions of Important Information Page 8

This Month's Speaker



Jarett Coons Sierra Mountain Trout Guide Service



Topic: Owens Valley Warm Water events like Trout in the Classroom and the Fishing

A true Eastern Sierra local Jarett Coons waters he grew up on and offers everywas born in Bishop California and has thing from warm water fly fishing to driftspent his life fishing the warm and cold ing the beautiful Owens River for trout. waters from Lone Pine to Bridgeport Ca. He opened Sierra Mountain Trout Guide On March 5th Jarett will be talking about Service shortly after graduating guide the amazing warm water fly-fishing opschool in St. Regis Montana in 2009. Now portunities in the Owens Valley. He will he can be found guiding his home waters focus on a few of his favorite places to for trout, carp, bass and bluegill. He is a chase Carp, Large and smallmouth bass member of the design team at Solitude Fly and breakdown some of the rods, rigs and Company and creator of the Carp Coach- flies used for success in the Owens Valman When not guiding Jarett can be found ley. hunting and camping with his family or donating his time at local kids fishing

Bishop Kids Fish Camp. Jarett has an extensive knowledge of the Eastern Sierra

Archive Version

Special Editor's Notice.

This issue of the Finny Facts has been streamlined as part of a new strategy to deliver more information to our members. San Diego Fly Fishers have three sources of published information: Finny Facts; The Indicator: Webpage. Each of them have specific functions, for example, The Indicator provides instant e-mail communication which may have missed the deadline for the Finny Fact. Sherry Ash**baugh** is doing a great job. There are a few pages on the **Finny** Facts that have information repeated every month and this information would be best on the Webpage, such as how to order logo clothing.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cut-off date for the April Finny Facts is Friday, March 16th, 2018. Send submissions to Alan Thompson at finnyfacts@gmail.com

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Next Program Monday, March 5, 2018 Southwestern Yacht Club

Reminder Set-up Crew for Next Meeting Lucky Ketcham **Bob** Pharoah **Don Davis**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: March 2018

and I am receiving great fishing reports.

enjoy our favorite sport. As a club, we Chairman for the Arizona Fly Casters got off to a great start with our February (AFC). I will soon have solid dates and meeting...a wonderful showing of mem- schedules for two planned, Club events bers, first time visitors, and new mem- with the AFC. bers. Let's keep this going!

Lee McElravy and his team of all our communication/media nets. "educators" took a trip to Santee Lakes If you have any questions, concerns, or, and taught an Introduction to Fly Fishing most importantly, positive suggestions class to 18 youngsters. Basics on equip- for our club, please contact me or any ment, fly casting, and fly tying. We hope member of our Board of Directors. to see more of these classes in the future.

Are you ready for the Bishop trip? Do you have your 2018 CA Fishing Li- Tight Lines. cense? Flies tied with barbless hooks? La

Fellow long rodders...Spring is upon us Thanks again to our organizers for getting this "Club" trip on the road. I recently had a great face-to-face conversa-Therefore, it's time to get out there and tion with Mr. Jim Rondoni, Events

Larry "Lars" Sorensen

We have many club activities planned The day following our February meeting, and in planning stages. Keep watching

Get out and enjoy this weather...





Time to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers for 2018.

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



Thank you for your support.

For the third year in a row, Larry George provided the fresh hamburger meat and Bratwurst for our Casting Event held at Tidelands Park

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.





ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

FLY FISHERS

June 4th, 2018 at 6 PM Southwestern Yacht Club 2702 Qualtrough St, San Diego, CA 92106

Fly tiers...See you at the June Fund Raiser. This is but a "mere" sample of what will be available.

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Montana Fly Fishing Trip w/ San Diego Fly Fishers

SDFF Club Trip - The Clark Fork Outpost on the Clark Fork River September 5th – 9th, 2018

Hola Anglers. The club is headed for Montana! Please join me, Tim Huckaby, and a bunch of other fun club members for the fly fishing trip of a lifetime. This one is a bucket-lister. Working with the best guides in the Missoula area, and years of practice, I have picked the exact week of the year that this remote stretch on the Clark Fork River typically fishes its best. Yes, that means unless you want to target that big 32" brown with a streamer we will most likely be dry fly fishing the entire time. West Slope Cutthroats, Rainbows, Browns and even Bull Trout! And I got us a sweet deal from my buddy Mike Hillygus, who owns the lodge we are staying at.

Trip Details:

September 5th to 9th, 2018

4 nights at the Clark Fork Outpost right on the Clark Fork River about 60 miles north and downstream from Missoula in the middle of the wilderness (Closest City: St. Regis, MT).

3 full guided days of fishing on the world famous Clark Fork River in drift boats with Missoula's best fishing guides. Gourmet / high end meals, wines and liquor

\$1950 (\$550 off regular price; ½ the price of the high-end MT lodges). Realize that MT regulates guides fees in a drift boat at \$525/day to understand what a sweet deal this is.

Not included: getting to Missoula, Guide Tips, MT fishing License

Maximum of 16 people; I already have 9 signed up

Lodge details here: http://stillwaterriveroutpost.com/clark-fork-outpost

If interested, talk to me or send me an email: <u>TimH@InterKnowlogy.com</u>



Big Doubles happen a lot on the Clark Fork. This is club member Tom Rundlett with world famous Missoula fishing guide Max Wolf just a mile downstream from the Clark Fork Outpost 2 Septembers ago.

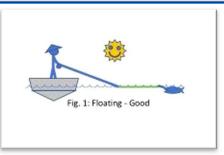
The Strip Set (or Strip Strike) **By Craig Smith**

The strip set or strip strike is a method of setting the hook by pulling on the fly line rather than lifting or swinging the rod (sometimes called a "trout set." In all sinking line and many floating line situations the strip set or strip strike is the most effective method of firmly setting a hook. Setting the hook by lifting or swinging the rod has some disadvantages that can lead to fewer hookups. Learning when and how to employ the strip set will improve your hook up percentage

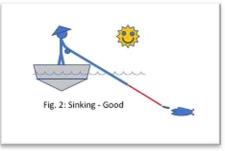
Fly rods are designed to bend for casting and for protecting light tippets. If you try to set the hook with the rod, as the fly and line come tight on a fish the rod will bend to protect the tippet, reducing the amount of force applied to the line and fly. This impairs the ability of the hook to penetrate in the fish's and gain purchase mouth. While you still may get a good hook set this way with fish with softer mouths like trout and crappie, you will miss many hookups with fish with tougher mouths, or even larger trout and other species that are easily hooked in smaller sizes.

When you try to set the hook by moving the rod and you miss a hookup, the fly is moved through the water, potentially 10' or more, and away from the fish. The fish may not come after it for a second attack, and if it does your rod will pointing to the sky or off to the side and out of position for a second attempt to set if you get a follow up grab.

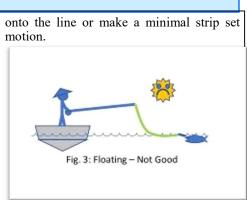
When fishing sinking lines, and in many floating line situations, strike detection is optimized by pointing the rod tip at the fly. Ideally, there is a straight line along the rod and line to the fly with the rod tip touching or below the surface of the water. You may have up to two or three feet of the tip section in the water when fishing sinking lines. The goal is to eliminate any slack in the line. If you have slack in the line between you and the fish, it will be more difficult to detect strikes and more difficult to set the hook when you do detect a strike. Figure 1 through figure 5 show examples of good and poor rod position in relationship the line. to



To execute a strip set when you detect that a fish has taken your fly, pull back sharply with the line hand until you come tight to the fish. Depending on the size of the fish, If you miss a hook up, the fly remains near and the direction it is moving, you may the fish since it has moved at most about move your hand a few inches or as far back the length your arm and often much less. A as you can reach behind you. Once you fish that misses the fly will often come feel the weight of the fish you can change right back and attack it againg if it remains the rod postion and put a bend into it, and if close, sometimes even after multiple missthe fish starts a run, you can relax your grip es. This happens quite frequently with our on the fly line. Often the strip set and the local spotted bay bass and calico following motion to put a bend in the rod bass. Many of you have learned to employ happen so quickly that an observer never this method when using the "dip and strip" notices the hand motion to set the technique for trout fishing on rivers. hook. Other times there is an easily observable difference between these motions.



With experience, you will learn that different species may require less energetic or more energetic strip set motion. Trout and crappie have soft mouths and the small, thin, hooks typically used penetrate fairly easily so the strip set may be a rather short movement. Large trout may require more force as will species such as calico bass, largemouth bass, striped bass, and redfish. Species with very hard mouths like tarpon require a very vigorous strip set. Many fast-moving saltwater species like bonito, yellowtail, and tunas practically set the hook on their own due to their speed moving through the water if you just hold





When is a strip set not ideal? You won't want to try the strip set when using dry flies, using nymph fishing techniques in streams, nor when fishing nymphs under an indicator in lakes. It's usually not the best way to set a hook when swinging streamers when the pressure of the current on the fly line is usually enough to stick the hook. But for much or our angling the strip set is the best way to set a hook. I encourage you to experiment with this technique if you do not already have it in your arsenal of angling techniques.

Bishop Rendezvous 2018 March 1-4, 2018 Fly Fishing the Owens River System



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 not available , contact the Travel Lodge next door at 844-422-5811

Then Contact me at finnyfacts@gmail.com so we will have a count for the evening meals.

Area Guide Services (that we have used)

Sierra Drifters- Tom Loe- 760-935-4250

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

Education in the Community Project Healing Waters and Trout in the Classroom



NEW- Introducing the Open Classroom

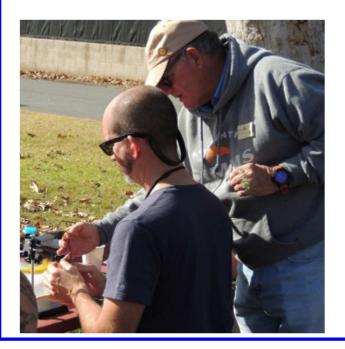
San Diego Fly Fishers continues their support for Project Healing Waters– Fly Fishing by providing instruction at Santee Lakes which is open to any Veteran even those that are not in any other support program.

The schedule for the <u>Open Classroom</u> is scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12noon to 3 pm at **Santee Lakes.**

Our goal is to provide one-on-one or small group instruction in the areas of fly tying, fly casting, knots, and most importantly, catching fish on the fly.

Our thanks goes out to the **Padre Dam Municipal Water District** (who owns and operates **Santee Lakes**) for allowing us to use the lakes as a classroom at no charge.

Join us as we support our Veterans.



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<u>Trout Fry Release</u> <u>Friday March 9th at 8:30 am</u> Lake Murray Casting Center

This incredible program continues to expand and now finds classrooms in Northern and Eastern San Diego County along with city schools ready to release the winter session of trout fry.

For those who are not familiar with the **Trout in the Classroom**, this is a partnership between **San Diego Fly Fishers** and **San Diego River Park Foundation** where local schools designate classrooms to raise fertilized trout eggs. Each classroom has a fish tank and chiller that maintains a 55 to 58 degree water temperature which is the optimal range to hatch trout eggs and raise them. After 6-8 weeks, the fry is ready to release in the wild. There are 3 seasons during the school year: Fall; Winter: Spring. This program would not happen without the support of the **California Department Fish and Wildlife** and our local liaison, **Jennifer O'Brien**.

On release day, we provide an outdoor educational experience by having students observe fly tying, participate in fly casting practice rods, and learning about the aquatic environment.

Join us and give back to the future generation of fly fishers.



sandiegoflyfishers.com

Special Notifications Important Information You Could Use

Important Information from the Annual Fundraiser Committee

The Fundraiser Committee is making great progress in assembling a spectacular event for our June 4th event. Please look in your mail in March for your pre-event raffle tickets. You can mail your complete tickets in the pre-addressed envelope or simply bring them to the April meeting.

REMEMBER...Buy \$100 worth of ticket and get a bonus book free.

We are still accepting gear donations. Items that are in "Like New" condition only please. We are unable to accept books or magazines.



So You Want To Be a CI (Certified Casting Instructor) Saturday, April 14, 2018, 09:00 - 14:00

Southwest Council *Contact Eric Callow, Casting Director, SWCFFI at casting@swcffi.org* Many casters who have reached the intermediate or advanced skill level find themselves asking two questions:

- How can I continue to improve my casting skills?
- How can I share my passion for casting and fly fishing with others?

The **Certified Casting Instructor** program of **Fly Fishers International** answers both by providing a thoughtfully structured syllabus of casting skills to be mastered with an equally important emphasis on teaching technique and a thorough grounding in casting theory. As such, it provides a road map for becoming the caster we want to be and a teacher who can effectively share their skills with others.

Going back to the early 1990's, the **Certified Casting Instructor** program was conceived as a way to provide both consistency and a higher standard in teaching others how to fly cast. Today, over fifty instructors who are active in the Southwest Council of the FFI have earned the CCI or Master Casting Instructor title. This clinic will provide a window on how you could become one of them by:

- Providing hands on demonstration and practice in each of the required casting skills.
- Highlighting study sources needed to become a knowledgeable teacher.
- Explaining the role of a mentor and how to find one.

Cost: \$50.00 FFI members, \$60.00 non-members. Register online at www.swcffi.org. Location: Long Beach Casting Club 5201 East 7th Street , Long Beach, California, 90808 (562) 433-9408

Future Event



Spring into Summer Event at The Fly Stop At the Event:

Date: March 17, 2018

Time: 10 am to 5 pm

Place: 9725 Trade Place Suite E San Diego, Ca. 92126

Vendors

Simms, Orvis, Sage, Scott, Rio, Abel, Redington, Hatch, Ross, Echo, Jackson Kayaks, Fishpond, Loon, TFO and more

Fly Tying Presentations And so much more



2018 Fly Fishing Film Tour is coming back



The Fly Fishing Film Tour is coming back to town **Date:** April 4, 2018 **Location:** La Paloma Theater, 471 S Coast Hwy 101, Encinitas, CA 92024 **Time:** 7 PM We can't wait for the F3T to coming back for the 2nd year in a row. The Tour will be held at the La Paloma Theater in Encinitas again. It's the perfect venue with a bar next door for snack and beverage before and after the film. Parking is close by which makes life so much easier. Ticket are available both online and at our store. Instore the tickets are \$15 and online they are \$18.

Future Event



Volunteers contact Lucky Ketcham GAMES OF SCOUTS Saturday, April 7 2018

Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center! Due to the new location of the Scout Fair. Please be prepared to transport gear a longer distance from parking.

San Diego-Imperial Council Scout Fair is coming! This annual community wide event showcases our first-class programs in a fun and exciting way. Cubs, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers from across our Council join together for a day of good-old Scouting fun!

This year's Scout Fair takes place on Saturday, April 7th, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the Chula Vista Elite Athletic Training Center (formerly known as the Olympic Training Center). 2800 Olympic Pkwy. Chula Vista, CA



Day at the Docks Sunday, April 15th, 2018 9am-4pm San Diego Fly Fishers will have a booth Join Us !!



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Membership Renewal by Mail		
Date First Name	Last Name MI	
 O Individual Membership - \$40.00 O Military Membership - \$25.00 (Active Military) 		
City	ew Address State/Zip	
O Email@ Please Print Clearly)		
SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS 10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd #327 San Diego, CA 92124	COUPONSAVE \$ 5.00COUPON Join IFFF and take \$5.00 off your San Diego Fly Fishers Membership and be entered in an IFFF raffle where 1 out of 12 new members will win a new fly rod. See John Adametz or Steve Vissers for more details	
By using this form you save your club the ex- pense of mailing a renewal form, can save you money if you renew in person at a club meeting, and this is the green al-		
ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL		
On-Line Renewal Here's how you do it:		

1st: on your computer (or other device) go to www.sandiegoflyfishes.com

2nd: click on Join Our Club

3rd: in the orange colored box click on <u>Renew Online</u>

4th: Read the entire page and compete the form in the aquamarine colored box

5th: After you have completely filled out the form, make sure you click the box that states <u>*1 have read and 1 agree to the terms</u> of the San Diego Fly Fishers General Release Not sure what is in General release, Click Button on bottom right that says <u>Read</u> SDFF General Release

6th: For safety, copy the number in a picture above Submit Button and copy that number in a box below the number.

7th: Hit Submit Membership Info

8th: Select membership type and follow instruction to make payment.

Final Note: If you have made an online purchase, you can work this system.

Eastern Sierra Report from Sierra Drifters

Fish'N Conditions 2/14/18

A more seasonal weather pattern/cooler temps, have slowed the bite down in the wild trout section. BWO hatches continue to be the catalyst for the afternoon snap. Mayfly nymph patterns like Assassins, FB PT's, hares ear, & tiger/olive zebra midge nymphs are good calls for sub-surface presentations. Flows remain very low in all sections running at 70cfs below the dam at PVR. Drift boat trips have been very good for numbers of planted rainbows and browns getting fooled on streamers and mayfly adult patterns. Most guided trips are seeing a few 18-21 inch rainbows come to net. Smaller Punk Perch, Spruce-A-Bu's, & Loebergs are the top streamers.

Upper Owens remains slow, with low fish counts. Windy/cooler weather not helping what few Crowley Steelhead are left in the system to get fooled. Flows are still elevated above mean levels; however water conditions are excessively not bad. Looking ahead, I see positive signs of an earlier than normal run of cutthroat this spring. Could see larger fish moving as early as next month.

Flows on the East Walker River have dipped to 28cfs. This release reduces fishable water significantly, & concentrates the fish in the deepest depressions only. Drifters guides are letting the EW rest under these conditions as stress on the fish is considerable. Numbers not the game here; but the rainbows are thick bodied and average 16 inches.

Conditions have been relatively stable here with some decrease in flows due to the colder air temps. Hot Creek access remains fine, with a little snow in the shadows. Numbers are fair/good for smaller fish that are eager to hit midge clusters, and first generation blue winged olives after mid-day. Aquatic weeds are a nuisance; but not impacting dry fly presentations.

Water levels at Pleasant Valley Reservoir are high making access to the transition area difficult. The pocket water below the power house has decent numbers reporting great fishing for the migratory with a few large fish holding in the deeper rainbows we call Crowley Steelhead. water. Dry/dropper best here. The slow Numbers have plunged recently. Water moving/ deeper water near the lake mouth conditions have actually been favorable has some trophy sized fish that will take a for a solid run on the UO. After numerous parallel Assassin fished on a dead drift..

Middle Owens River

good. maintenance on the hvdrotheir respective tail outs. The baetis hatch couple years. ing too. Drifting has been good for numa good call. Make sure you have some #16/18 adult baetis (BWO) patterns handy dry with frequent use of desiccant. This using Assassins, flashback pheasant tails, broken back midges, olive crystal caddis larva, & olive larva patterns. Hot stream- Looking ahead I see a STRONG probabilers on the drift boat trip have been Spruce -A-Bu's and Loebergs, with the parallel Punk Perch getting grabs during the hatch. els rising in Crowley, elevated water High-vis BWO adults and a drop- flows, & warmer than normal air temps per mayfly nymph profile can be deadly typically pave the way for these beautiful just prior to; & during the hatch. Fish your fish to begin moving in March. Last years dry/dropper rig in the deeper riffle water, run was weak here; but conditions are or along the foam lines leading into the conducive to a solid show this spring. pools.

Upper Owens River

Disappointing to be honest. I should be

years of planting sterile "triploid" fish, the ramifications of this fisheries management No significant changes to report. The (or lack there of) may finally be taking its overall bite has slowed a bit respective to toll. Triploids have no instinctual mechathe cooler air temps. It can pick up just as nisms to spawn; or migrate upstream. quickly when the barometer begins mov- They remain in the lake unlike fertile trout ing higher. We have been guiding from that swim upstream to propagate. Sterile our drift boats almost exclusively for an fish have been planted exclusively extended period; with smiles, & high fives throughout the Sierra in recent years due from our clients telling us the "catch'N" is to laws implemented in the past decade to Flows remain very low due to protect the genetic integrity of native "west slope steelhead". Changes in the electric facilities around PVR. The bulk of fisheries management plan this year, the fish will seek the deepest pools at this mostly specific to this water shed, are level. A fair amount of riffle water will be permitting the planting of "diploid" trout to shallow for fish to stage in during the once again. Hopefully we will see fish hatches, so focus on the larger pools, & counts improve in the tributaries after a There are a few bigs comes off after noon most days, with around, covering a lot of water can get some blanket midge emergences appear- you a shot at the elusive ones. Some smaller resident fish are sipping on midge bers of smaller planted rainbows and clusters in the pillow water of the larger browns with a few bigs showing in the pools during periods of warmer weathcounts most days. We are currently lim- er. Getting your rigs on the bottom with ited in our runs due to low water. Smaller water conditions like this require obscene perch fry patterns like our #16 Punk Perch amounts of weight, lengthy leaders, and in the afternoons during the BWO hatch is aggressive mending tactics to achieve drag free drifts. Crystal Eggs, San Juan Worms, #16-18 Assassins (dark and for the mayfly hatch. The adults come off light), #14-16 Crystal Leeches, and #16in the foam, & hide in it while their wings 20 Copper Tiger Midge, Zebra Midge, are drying. Keep your imitations high and and Gillies have been good patterns fished with plenty of weight below an Undershould be a memorable season for surface Cator. There is some nasty mud in the action. Nymph the deeper pools, & slots ruts after the ground thaws on some of the two track roads leading down to the river.

> ity that the spring migration of cutthroat trout will be earlier than usual. Water lev-



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Funny Page



FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY starting at 9 AM

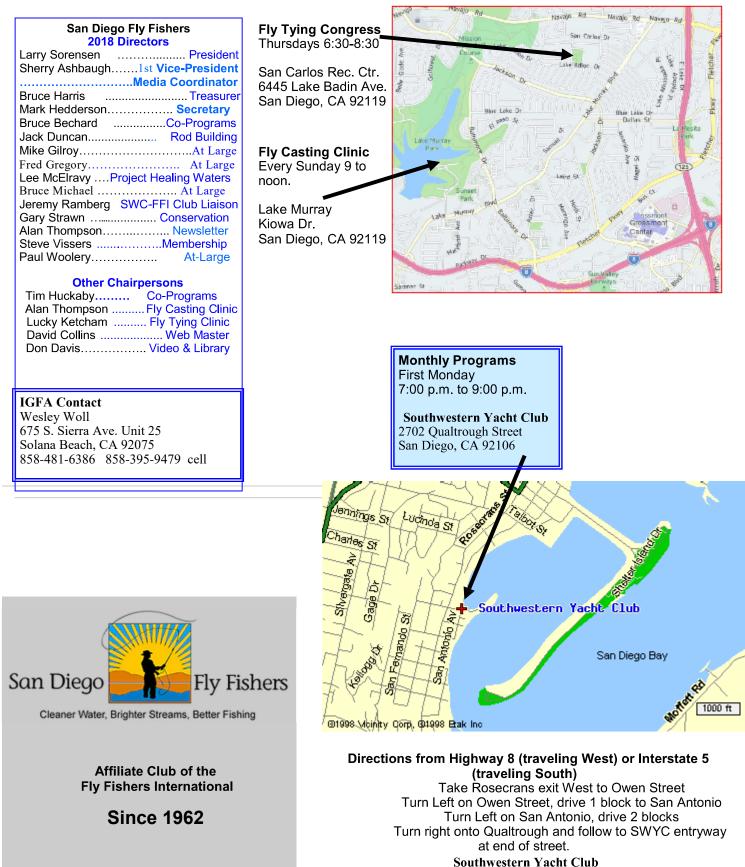
Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors. DIRECTIONS--Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. 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!

2017 Fundraiser Sponsors A special thank you to our Sponsors. Please Support them with your business



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