

FINNY FACTS

February 2021

San Diego Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 44 No. 02

Monday, February 1st, 7:30 p.m.
Join us for our next Club Meeting
Featuring:

TIM HATLER

Palapas Ventana, Baja California



Time to renew your membership with
San Diego Fly Fishers for 2021

Club Meeting: [Zoom Link](#)

Follow all the action on the Club's [Facebook page](#)

Access the Club Calendar: [SDFF Calendar](#)

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Please send submissions to
editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

President's Message



Jim Castelluzzo
February 1, 2021

Most of you have seen the moving reflections of salt water fly fishing legend Bernard 'Lefty' Kreh on YouTube titled "TIME – A reflection with Flip Pallot", presented by the American Museum of Fly Fishing. This is a tribute to one of the true giants of our sport. There are many poignant stories in this video, but the two that resonated with me are these: Share your passion for our sport, the fish, the habitats and places of unsurpassed beauty with our youth. They are the future. If we don't bring our youth along, this sport along with the special habitats and spectacular waters, may pass with this generation.

The other takeaway while obvious to some, cannot be overstated. Make every day count. Don't let a good fishing day pass by. Some of us are lucky enough to have most of our best fishing days ahead of us. Others have fewer good fishing days ahead. Never lose sight of TIME.

I've been promoting the involvement of youth in our club for the past year. We have a core group of young people eager to learn, get out and fish, and share their stories. Some are excellent fly tiers as well. Here's a message I received from one of our younger members, Alex:

Dear Jim,
These are some of my ideas for club improvement and future youth club:

1. Youth Fly Tying & Fishing outings
2. In club fishing tournament- (youth or not)
3. Youth outings—example, fishing on Saturday for youth
4. Fly tying Monday

P.S. I like Kai's cooking

Our new board member **Tim Garcia** has generously offered to lead our SDFY Youth Program. Tim is working on a schedule of activities and will present it to our membership. I'm sure Tim would appreciate the help of volunteers as the program develops.

Fundraising is a key component of our club. The funds generated support our conservation and outreach efforts. We have temporarily postponed our live Annual Fundraising events but these will resume in the future. As an alternative, we are looking at holding online fundraisers. All of these activities require the efforts of dedicated volunteers and most importantly a Fundraising Chair. The Fundraising Chair coordinates all Club Fundraising, manages the annual Fundraising Raffle event (typically in June) and the annual "Garage Sale" event (typically held in December); Submits a budget request for resources needed to procure items for the annual Fundraiser; Assembles a committee of volunteers to assist at fundraising events and provides content to promote all fundraising activities. I

If any of you are interested in taking on this critical role, please contact me.

president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Join us!

Speaker Programs

Zoom!

Monday, February 1, 7:30 pm

Palapas Ventana! Fly Fishing in Southern Baja!

Tim Hatler

Tim Hatler grew up cleaning boats in a sailboat dealership in SF Bay Area then went on to study Chemical Engineering at UCSB before returning to the water in a career of Captaining vessels in off-shore So Cal for fishing, diving, and sail training education - Tim followed the fish to Baja in 2003 and built an Ocean Adventure Resort focused on fishing and diving adventures, amazing local foods and a relaxed social atmosphere for like minded travelers to explore a waterman's paradise - He chose the waters of Cerralvo Island for its excellent reef species and being the southernmost island in the Sea of Cortez for the influx of pelagic species that leak around from the Pacific side - Tim loves all types of fishing spearfishing diving and surfing and above all helping others to live their personal Baja Ocean Adventure daily and return to the pool at happy hour to share stories. He still guest star captains sailing catamarans for liveaboard island hopping trips and loves exploring new areas of Baja and beyond

Join Zoom Meeting : <https://zoom.us/j/97836563051?pwd=QXJHT05wejdWM3dRZnB5ZHlhK3AyZz09>

Meeting ID: 978 3656 3051 Password: SDF-4U

A few ground rules so that this call will be enjoyable, Please review the following before you login:

- Please test your camera, speakers and microphone before joining the meeting to be sure they are working on your end.
- Everyone who connects to the call will have their audio muted by default. The moderator will control the audio and unmute your microphone when you are going to ask a question or make a comment.
- If you wish to ask a question please send a message to the moderator using the chat function or raise your hand using the participants function (this can be done at any time). The Speaker and moderator will coordinate on responding to anyone who wishes to ask a question.
- We will wait until the end of the presentation to allow people to ask questions and comment. We will call on you and allow you to speak.

Know of someone who would be a good candidate for speaking to the club?
contact either [Jim Castelluzzo](#) or [Tim Huckaby](#)

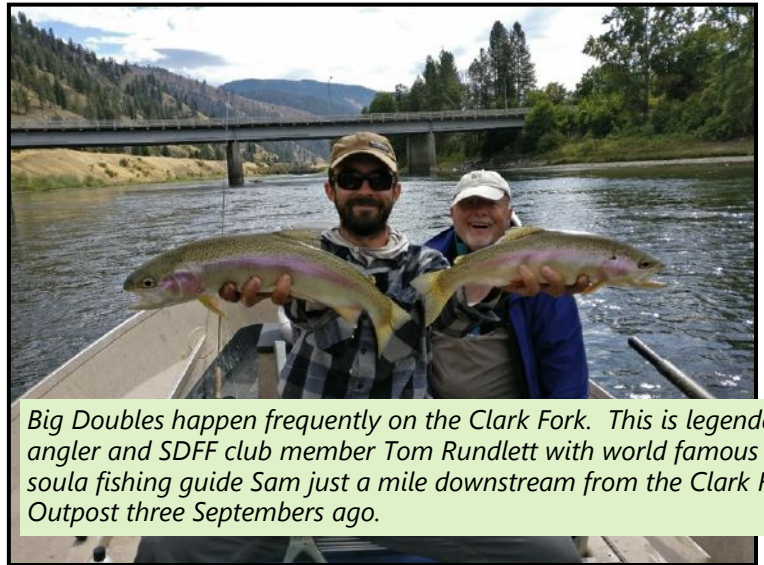
Happenings

SDFF Annual Montana Trip September 2021

Hola Anglers. The club will be headed back to Montana this September! Please consider joining me, Tim Huckaby, and a bunch of other fun club members for the fly fishing trip of a lifetime... again. Yeah, this trip is a bucket-lister... again.... And yes, a few of us have already checked this off the bucket list and plan to do it... again.

Working with lodge owner Mike Hillygus, a long-time friend of the club and multiple time donator to the annual fundraiser, we have picked this exact time of year by design to maximize the best fly fishing.

Last year the SDFF group begged Mike to offer a "combo trip" in 2021 at both his lodges back to back. Mike owns two lodges on remote stretches of rivers. One is on the Upper Clark Fork River an hour north of Missoula and the other is on the Stillwater River, a tributary to the Yellowstone between Billings and Bozeman.



Big Doubles happen frequently on the Clark Fork. This is legendary angler and SDFF club member Tom Rundlett with world famous Missoula fishing guide Sam just a mile downstream from the Clark Fork Outpost three Septembers ago.

September: This is the time of the year that these remote stretches of rivers typically fish best. Yes, that means we will most likely be **dry fly fishing** the entire time.

- Clark Fork River - Big Fish reported to 28" - West Slope Cutthroats, Rainbows, Browns and even Bull Trout!
- Stillwater River: Lots of Browns, Rainbows and Yellowstone Cutthroats reported to 22"

We figured out how to be COVID safe last September on this SDFF club trip and if the pandemic is still an issue, we plan to be COVID safe again.

Now here is the "rub": I have been "negotiating" with Mike since last September on the Stillwater River part of the trip. Honestly, he has been against this part of the trip: "you guys got me in a weak moment". Last year at the exact same time the Stillwater River was too skinny to float. If you can't float the Stillwater, then you have to do a big trek to the Yellowstone or the Bighorn. It is not ideal for Mike both financially and fishing-wise. So, I have "convinced him" to let us wade unguided for a couple days. He'll still do the gourmet meals and the lodge. Just not the guided fishing in rafts and drift boats because the Stillwater river will be too shallow to float. Mike is giving us a good rate on the lodge (\$300/night) and an unguided rod fee (\$100/day for 2 days; partial days free) which includes his 2.5 miles of private water. Btw, too skinny to float means the river is easily crossable wading in multiple places.

So, the Stillwater River part of this SDFF club trip is optional for six lucky anglers. If you do the Stillwater part of the trip, you have to do the Clark Fork part of the trip too. The Clark Fork part of the trip can accommodate 14 anglers (7 guides with 7 drift boats).

Happenings

Summary:

Wednesday, Sept 1st to Saturday, Sept 4th: Stillwater River Outpost

6 SDFP anglers max
Clark Fork Outpost (CFO) 2nd part of the trip mandatory
Un-guided, wading only
2 full days of fishing with partial days on both travel days
\$1,100 / person (\$300/nt + \$100/day rod fee)
Stillwater River Outpost (SRO) Lodge details: stillwateroutpost.com/

Saturday, Sept 4th to Wednesday, September 8th: Clark Fork Outpost

14 SDFP anglers max;
Guided, drift boats
3 full days of guided fishing in drift boats with Missoula's best guides
Optional, unguided wading partial days on both travel days
\$2,100 / person - \$550 off regular price; ½ the price of the high-end MT lodges. MT regulates guides fees at \$575/day. Many guides charge more. So, we are getting a sweet deal.
Clark Fork Outpost (CFO) Lodge details <http://stillwateroutpost.com/clark-fork-outpost>

If interested, please send me an email: TimHuckaby@Hotmail.com and I'll get you on "the list" in the priority by which I receive them. We'll do the 50% deposit thing in June timeframe, earliest.

More Details & "color":

Gourmet / high end meals, wines and liquor at both lodges
Not included: getting to and from Bozeman or Missoula, guide tips, MT fishing License
Transfer to and from the Missoula and optionally the Bozeman airport *is included* in the cost
CFO: 3 full guided days in drift boats in between the travel days on the world-famous Clark Fork River. 2 anglers per drift boat with the Missoula area's best fishing guides.
CFO: Pre-arranged float plan with rotation of the guides and fishing partners (unless you have a buddy you want to fish with all 3 days).
CFO: 4 nights at the Clark Fork Outpost right on the Clark Fork River ~60 miles north and downstream from Missoula in the middle of the wilderness (Closest City: St. Regis, MT).
2 travel days getting there and coming home (plenty of DIY wade fishing opportunities or simply relaxing with a high end cocktails, wines, beers and appetizers)
For those attending both lodges, Saturday, September 4th is a travel day between the lodges. It's 5-6 hours of driving between the two lodges. The costs and logistics of that travel will be included in the price.



The Devilishly handsome David Collins raking the Stillwater in his high-tech wading gear.



Tim Huckaby, Junior the dog and the world famous Missoula Guide Max Wolf on the Clark Fork River trash talking at one of the other SDFP drift boats.

Happenings

Club Outing, January 9, at Bahia Point, Mission Bay

Kai makes sure all are well fed on a day when the fish weren't too hungry.



Elder statesmen toast the Prez's birthday



Two youngsters with a keen eye for flies.



Feature Article

Gold At the End of the Rainbow (s)

By Joel Stewart

My New Zealand story began with chasing rainbows. It was a great adventure filled with memories to last a lifetime. I was in Wellington on official duty and Monday through Friday it was all business. Friday afternoon was another thing. I had a bit of gold fever. Gold as in golden-hued brown trout.

The conference ended, I bid my international team farewell, and I walked straight out of the building into a cab. I didn't even change out of my uniform. I picked up my rental car, headed to my hotel, collected my bags, changed clothes, and hit the road north.

Feature Article, cont.

I was not going far. There are a few trout streams within an hour of Wellington and many more only two hours out. One thing about New Zealand roads, visitors should plan to make 50 kilometers per hour. Once out of major metropolitan areas it is all two-lane roads. Speed limits are 80 to 100 km/hour but lorries, campers, and slow drivers make that an occasional reality, not a planning standard. My destination was Upper Hutt where I'd booked an Airbnb room as my base camp. Once there, I sorted my gear and set off to explore the river which runs right through town along the highway.

Loads of people swim and play in the river but I'd been told the fish pay them no mind. Above town the river cuts a deep gorge. Above the gorge is a large state park which is infamous for being a film sight for the movie *Lord of the Rings*. It was used to build the set for Rivendell, an elven hideaway. Now just the trees remain. There are some placards and occasionally local actors from the cast who will give presentations to visitors. Beyond that it is a great forest park with campsites, trails, and river access. This is where I would fish.

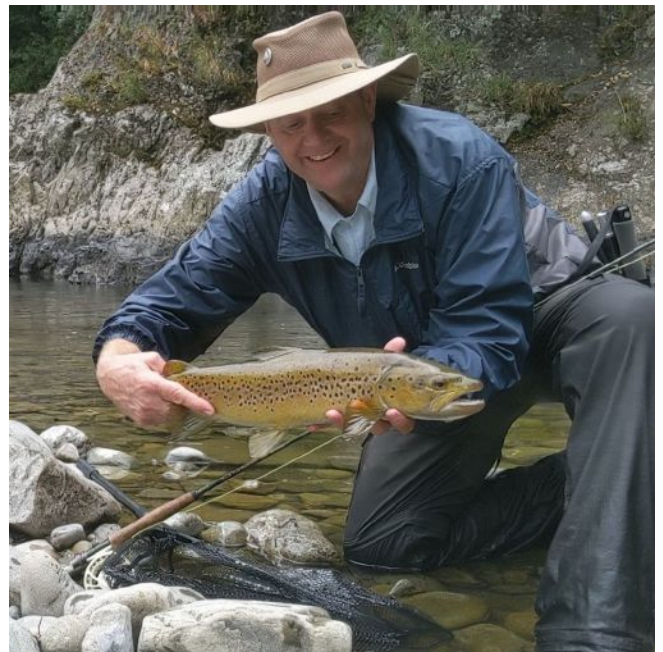
Scouting done, I returned to my room. It was simple but sufficient. A bed, shower, TV, fridge, microwave, and kettle. It also had a private entrance so I wouldn't disturb my hosts. Sleep came hard but I slept sound when I did. I awoke at first light to the sound of rain. I slept a bit more and then roused myself.

I got to the park and while there were cars I saw no fisherman. I rigged two rods, same as before except I put the nymph setup on the TFO BVK 5wt and dry on the TFO Impact 6wt. I did this because my 5wt line was showing age; I saw the tip sinking a bit while fishing the previous weekend. I set off down the trail, across the swinging bridge and down the trail, a fair distance above the river. When the trail crossed the river to loop back I dropped through the brush and down a steep hill to the river. I was now at the head of the gorge. As I looked over the river I could see a very large trout in a deep hole. The pool blocked passage further down into the canyon. I'd have to swim or fish upstream. As I was alone, upstream it would be.

However I had to try tempting the beast lurking in that hole. I tried a number of drifts and got its attention but no take. Each refusal left me with shaking hands. Finally the fish had enough and skulked away under a rock.

I turned up stream and worked the riffles with a dry dropper and the deep holes with a nymph. About five

holes up, in a deep run along a rock wall, my indicator stopped I lifted and immediately felt the weight of a good fish. It stayed deep and tried to get under a large rock but I turned it downstream. I couldn't see the whole fish but the white of its mouth flashed to confirm this was a big trout. In the shallower tail of the hole the fish thrashed and rolled. It chugged back upstream and I turned it down. As the battle drew near the end I was really regretting leaving my big net strapped to my pack. The net I had was fine for 20 inch fish, but not this fish. However my pack was out of reach. I worked the fish into calm water. Carefully I was able to get it head first into my inadequate net and breath again while elation overcame me.



Leaving the fish in the net for a minute, I grabbed my phone and put it on a rock to get a picture. Once that was done he went back into the river and dashed into his lair. If that fish is not my best brown trout he's number two. The other came out of the Smith River in Montana almost 40 years ago. It was dark that summer night so long ago and the fish seemed huge to a 16 year-old but likely wasn't bigger than the beauty I'd just landed.

It took a bit to come down off the high of that fish. Once my heart rate slowed and my hands quit shaking, I went to my pack and put my wood net away. Then I got out the net I should have been using. That squared away, I set out upstream to find another.

Feature Article, cont.

I carefully approached each hole, looking for feeding fish. In a long deep run I spotted a trout working behind a log stuck in the sandy bottom. I made a number of casts, adjusted the leader length, and changed flies twice. Finally she drifted over, looked at my offering and turned away to vanish in the deep dark recesses of the hole.

I swallowed my pride at such harsh rejection and set out up river. Three holes later, I spotted another fish. This one was on the edge of the main current feeding another run along the edge of a rock wall. I adjusted my indicator and cast. Too far but I let it drift past the lie. Another cast was too long again but not by much. As it moved down I saw a white flash and set the hook. A different fish came out from the wall and took my top nymph. This one thought it was a rainbow as it leapt and summersaulted across the pool. Soon, I had a chunky 18 inch brown in my net. The fly fell out as I reached for it and with one final twisting flip my catch was back in the river without me laying a hand on it. I went back to my perch to check on the bigger fish. It was still there.

I made another cast, this time too short. It was a tough drift but as long as I could see the fish I'd try to get it right. Too long, wrong seam, too short, too shallow, and finally just right. The fish slid off the rock she'd been holding on and followed my fly. When I saw white, I set and felt her weight. It was a nice fish and she fought strong in the depths of the run. I kept her out of the rocks. I worked her in close a couple times but she was net smart. Finally I got it right. The lovely Hutt had given up a beauty. She posed with me before I returned her to fight another day.



I sat for a few minutes after releasing the fish, savoring the moment. I dug water and a granola bar out of my ruck. While I ate and drank I listened to the cicadas sing above the gurgle of the river. I was as lucky as an angler can be. I was able to get into wild places. I managed to catch some incredible fish. It was a very satisfying place to be. I packed up my kit and continued the journey.



Four fruitless holes later I was blind casting in a riffle when I thought I saw something flash. My indicator had not stopped but I lifted anyhow and felt resistance that turned into a tug. The fish ran up a few yards and the raced down with the current. I turned it in the head of the next shallow riffle where it hugged the rocks. I could tell it was not huge but a nice fish. I stepped into the riffle and worked it over to the next. Fish four of the day was giving me the eye. It was carbon copy of fish two, a healthy foot and a half of brownie. A great catch except I was in New Zealand. As soon as I slacked the line the fly dropped. So the fish was back in the river quickly after resting a bit in the net. Had I know it would be my last fish of the trip I may have taken a picture.

In fact it was my last cast. The rest of the water had swimmers enjoying the river, so I called it a day. At the car, I shucked my wet gear and noticed a familiar bush. I filled my hat and then snacked on ripe blackberries. What a great ending to a fantastic DIY day. I'd certainly struck gold after chasing rainbows there a week earlier.

Read more of Joel's adventures at <https://krazygoof.wordpress.com/>

Planned Trips 2021

February 13, 2021

Otay Lake!

7:00 a.m.

Start the new year right!

Get your license... and

Renew your membership to SDFF!



For more information Please contact **Kai Schumann**

or look for details in *the Indicator*.

Questions?

Contact us at outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com

SDFF Women's Program

The Women of Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers and South West Council Women's Programs present

MARY ANN DOZER'S RECIPE TO FIX THOSE PEAKY CASTING FAULTS.

THIS IS AN EDUCATIONAL VIRTUAL EVENT FOR ALL CASTING SKILL LEVELS. MARY ANN DOZER'S WORKSHOPS ARE JAM PACKED WITH FUN AND USEFUL TIDBITS YOU WILL REMEMBER TO UP YOUR CASTING GAME. YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS WONDERFUL WORKSHOP!



FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
26, 2021
6:00 PM PACIFIC
ZOOM

This is an educational virtual event for all casting skill levels. Mary Ann Dozer's workshops are jam packed with fun and useful tidbits you will remember to up your casting game. You will not want to miss this wonderful workshop!

When: Friday, February 26, 2021

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4112941257pwd=cmxZOFYxcFljQ2xyU3h2T2FWQjllQT09>

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 411 294 1257

Passcode: SPFF2020

All are invited to join in to this virtual educational event.

More information about future events as they become available. It will be posted here and on Facebook and the Indicator.

Contact Brooke Sargent, [Women's Program](#)

Fly of the Month

Sally Hanson - Crease Fly – Baby Rainbow



Trout Fly and photo by Lucky Ketcham – FOM short version

This foam pencil popper is coated with clear Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails nail polish and then colored with two additional SH nail polishes. The spots are drawn in with a black Sharpie pen. I've tied many Crease flies over the past 5 years, some of the recipes using generous amounts of Superglue followed by coatings of two part epoxies or silicon gel were quite messy and time consuming. This fly is first connected to the hook shank with only 4 or 6 very small drops of super glue. It is much easier and cleaner than other recipes. I did not need to use a rotating fly dryer and worry about sagging epoxy. Caution: tie these flies in a well ventilated room. You avoid the vapors of the epoxy, but the solvents in the nail polish and Superglues are still to be avoided.

- Hook:** TMC 300- 6 X long shanked streamer hook, or shorter 4X long TMC 9395. For salt water, I might use a TMC 511S, Stainless steel 4XLong shanked popper hook. The above is a Dai-Riki 700, streamer hook 4XL; size 4.The hook can be size 2 down to 8.
- Thread:** Danville flat waxed nylon 210 denier or other 3/0 thread, white or red.
- Tail:** Spooled white Antron yarn, with two or three strands or silver or chartreuse flash.
- Body:** 2 mm craft foam sheet. The above fly used a white with "pearl glitter", self adhesive foam. I found an assortment of glitter coated foam sheets at a local craft store. Plain white foam can be used but the pearl glitter looks like small scales.
- Eyes:** Prismatic Mylar stick on eyes, the size is proportional to the body size.
- Adhesives:** Sally Hanson Hard as Nails – clear. Loc-Tite Superglue – CA glue. Split wine corks were used to hold flies while they dried.

Special colors for Rainbow Trout:

Sally Hanson HD, High Definition Nail Color" #13 Resolution" = a blue green with silver sparkle for the back of the minnow. \$6.99 at CVS Drug Stores A second HD High Definition "#15 DVD"= a purple/blue sparkle nail polish. On the white foam body the thin purple looks like the pink sides of a rainbow trout. A black Sharpie pen was used to add body spots and gill plate. Some of the Crease flies were given red gills or mouth parts made with a red Sharpie pen and/or red nail polish.

Midcurrent *Online Magazine* had this video to help you learn how to tie a similar Crease Fly. http://www.midcurrent.com/video/clips/tying/crease_fly.aspx

Fly of the Month Cont.

Body - Cut the 2mm foam sheet into strips 1 and 1/8" inch wide. Fold the strip in half length wise. The video uses a small round bottle to make a round nose or lip on the pencil popper. Size the foam body to the hook shank, cutting a small tapered of foam. The front of the body should be wide enough to make a nice little hollow cup when folded over the hook. Cut two long thin triangles off the sides of the foam rectangle to help form the long tapered body. If using the self adhesive foam sheeting keep the protective paper on the body while it is being folded and cut.

Mount the hook, make a good thread base to the bend and add a sparse short tail of Antron and a few strands of flash. I use the Scott Sanchez trick of adding a long drop of head cement to the bare hook before making the thread base. It will help keep the slippery thread from moving around. Wrap at least two layers of thread for a good base to hold the Superglue and foam body. The amount of Flash is up to you and the fish. Louie Zimm sometimes makes his anchovy tails completely of Flashabou and Krystal Flash – keep them short and sparse or they will wrap around the hook bend on the cast. Bring the thread up to the point behind the hook eye and make enough thread wraps to fill the gap in the hook eye. Whip finish and cut off the tying thread.

Now to attach the body, take the paper off the self-adhesive pearl glitter foam body. Take the paper off the two long triangles. Place them one on top of each other about 1/2 inches from the top lip and along the spine of the body. Place four (4) small drops of Loctite Superglue on each of the corners of the underside of your body. (Ignore the recipes that say apply a generous amount of glue or your fingers and desk will suffer.) Go back to the flies and add a line of super glue along the bottom if there is any exposed thread. I put the long tip of the Super Glue applicator into the cup of the head and placed a few drops on the inside of the body for extra durability.

I painted each of the flies with a coat of clear Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails before adding eyes or trying to add any colors. Add stick on eyes on each side of the head. I first applied a small drop of Superglue and then placed the eyes using tweezers and the bodkin needle. Let dry. To make the rainbow trout, first paint the lateral line with several brush strokes of purple/blue (pink). Let dry while working on another fly. Paint the back and head of the minnow with the HD #13 nail polish. The blue/green/sparkle makes a nice pattern. When all the flies are dry add extra details and spots with a black Sharpie pen.

I put one extra coat of clear head cement over the Mylar eyes to try to seal down the edges. If you bend or slightly fold the stick on eyes before you place them, there is a better chance the edges will not stick up from a round body.

These light foam pencil poppers are the fly fisher's version of the famous Rapala minnow. A simple white version is great for bonito, barracuda and bass near the kelp line off San Diego.



For more information contact [Lucky Ketcham](#)

Rod Building

Stay tuned for when classes will resume.

Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student.
Dates will be announced in the *Finny Facts*.



In the interim, if you are beginning your own project and would like some advice or recommendations, please free to contact [Jack Duncan](#)

Rod Building help is an important benefit of being a San Diego Fly Fisher. In the coming editions of *Finny Facts* and on the Website look for "Tips from Jack" to help those who want to build their own rod.

"The greatest 5 weight of all time... that will never be matched in 100 lifetimes, which has literally bagged hundreds of trout in its short nine month lifespan.... has the words "Tim Huckaby" painted on the butt section and was built on Winston boron III LS blanks by the world famous Jack Duncan."

Contact: [Jack Duncan](#)

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2021

We are pleased to announce our casting instruction program for 2021. 2020 was a challenging year in many respects and as we look forward to this coming year, we appreciate everyone's patience as we have had to make adjustments to our casting programs.

Lake Murray will continue to be on hold, likely through the first half of the year. We will keep everyone updated when we believe we can restart that program safely.

In the meantime, if someone has a question or a trip planned and needs some assistance please email me at the email address below to discuss. I am often able to provide private or semi-private instruction.

Casting Skills Challenge Program: The FFI has reintroduced a program they call the Casting Skills Challenge. It is designed for the experienced beginner caster as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun way to study, practice and challenge oneself in a progressive fashion. We will be offering this program to SDFP membership in 2021. More information on the program can be found on the FFI website.

I will be taking indications of interest the next several months and intend to hold an introductory ZOOM meeting in February to kick the program off.

If you have an interest, please email me at the email below.

Intermediate Casting Clinic: I will plan to hold it later in the year. We will limit attendance to 10. Times and dates will be published when determined.

Contact John: flycasting@sandiegoflyfishers.com



For questions please contact: John Wylie

Conservation & Education

Trout in the Classroom is Back!

SDFF is sponsoring Trout in the Classroom at two schools this winter. One is meeting in session, the other is doing distance learning. Unfortunately, we won't be able to participate in their trout release in March due to covid distancing requirements, but I hope to get pictures to share.

It is great that these wonderful teachers love the program so much that they are willing to work through the added logistical problems to bring this educational tool to their students.



Last year's release on a trout-perfect day at Lake Murray.

Please continue to support SDFF and our conservation, education and outreach programs with your participation and donations at our fundraising events. You make all this possible.

If you know of a good conservation project that needs some support, please share your ideas with the committee.

Gary Strawn
conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com



Due to current restrictions, program is dark until further notice

Project Healing Waters (PHW) Fly Fishing is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. San Diego Fly Fishers (SDFF) is proud to be a local affiliate of PHW. Our San Diego based program, serves veterans locally by providing opportunities to learn fly casting, fly tying and fly fishing. We are a service organization and are pleased to offer opportunities to our veterans to help them find out more about the arts associated with fly fishing. If you are looking for a good way to contribute to our veterans and your Club, please let us know.

Help us find Veterans in Need!

Our Club has an exceptional team of dedicated volunteers who commit time to helping disabled Vets learn about fly fishing, tying and casting. Over the course of the past year our program has struggled to gain reliable access to Vet's from the VA, etc. Currently the program leaders are working with local VFW's and American Legions to let people know about this service.

If you know a disabled veteran who would benefit from spending some time with us please contact [Lee McElravy](#)

Please look at our Club's PHW Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/PHWFF.SDFF/>

Join in and help the Club support our PHW program. Lee McElravy is now running this page and has indicated he will be doing regular updates. Share it to any one you know who may benefit from our programs or would like to help. Contact: Lee McElravy for more information

Fly Tying

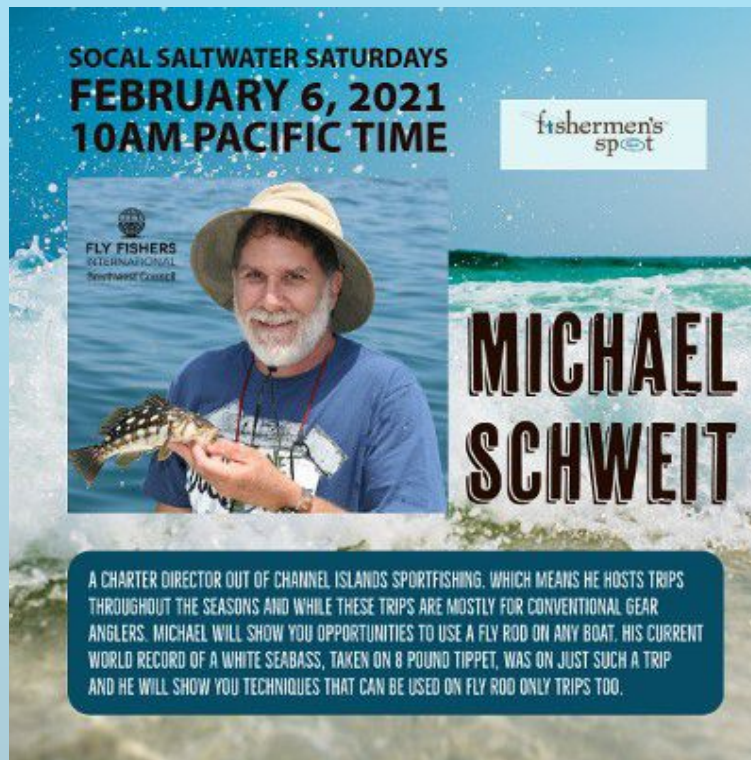
PHW leaders are revisiting the fly tying location and time. Expect a new schedule when available to include an evening tying session.

Fly Casting

Where: Santee lakes, Santee CA
When: third Saturday at 9 AM



Southwest Council FFI



Access Zoom **Socal Saltwater Saturdays** at the **SWCFFI** website <https://www.swcffi.org/>

Postponed to 2022

The first ever **Trout Rodeo** will be held in Bishop, California on ~~February 20, 2021~~. This catch and release tournament is a challenge to ALL anglers to see who comes out on top. The event is open to fly and conventional anglers and we have made it easy to be a part of it.

The Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International represents all of Southern California and Nevada. Fly Fishers International is a 54 year old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. Fly Fishers International and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on an national and regional level.

For more information Contact [John Wylie](#) our Representative for FFI

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

San Diego Fly Fishers is affiliated with the Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International (FFI). Look for more happenings in the SW region in future editions of Finny Facts.



Membership

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Ready to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers?
Please support your club by planning to renew for 2021**

Regardless of current conditions we still plan an active year with many opportunities to fish and have fun. February, Otay Lake.

Don't miss out! Join or renew!

You can renew your membership on-line through the SDFF website, or you can renew in person at our monthly programs; or you can download an application on our website and mail a check to

**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS
C/O Stroud Tackle
1457 Morena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110**

[Renew online](#)

Contact: [Alan Thompson](#)

Or Renew at the next Monthly SDFF Meeting

SDFF has four membership levels

Individual.....\$40

Family.....\$50

Individual Military.....FREE (Active Duty Only)

Renew your membership (or your family's). It's simple.

On-line at sandiegoflyfishers.com then follow the instructions.

Thank you,
Alan Thompson
Membership

Volunteers are needed

San Diego Fly Fishers is a service organization.
So please ask yourself...

“What service can I provide to my Club”?

Service Opportunities

Fishing Outings

This is a chance to help run a fishing outing for Club members. We are seeking volunteers to organize a day of fishing on our local waters. It's fun and easy. Pick your favorite water and contact [Kai Schumann](#) and we will help you get started.

- ◆ Pick a local lake
- ◆ Pick a location for the bay
- ◆ Pick a location for the surf

The whole idea is to involve more members in creating fishing events and get us on the water monthly.

Fundraising

- ◆ We need 2 or 3 more volunteers to help serve on the committee
- ◆ Contact: Warren Lew [fundraising](#)

Greeters are needed at our Monthly meetings!

We are planning to have 2 or 3 greeters at each event to help new people into our Club. It's a great way to serve the Club and meet new Flyfishers.

Please contact [Jim Castelluzzo](#)

Project Healing Waters

- ◆ Help with this important program that serves Veterans in need.
- ◆ If you know of a Veteran in need Please let us know!
- ◆ Contact: [Lee McElravy](#) to learn how you can contribute.

Women's Program

- ◆ Please contact Brooke Sargent [Women's Programs](#) for information and way to get involved.

Fishing!

Photos from the SDFF Facebook Page



Night owl and fish hawk, Tim.



First fish on a homemade fly at Lake Murray.



Mel with another double.

Another photo of a pink flamingo in south bay!



John seems to be pretty happy with this dorado out of Palapas Ventana, Baja. **Don't miss the club's presentation on zoom, February 1st.**

Tidelands

Kiss your catch? That Hali's got some sharp teeth!



Guides and Resources

San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse or recommend any particular Guide or Business. This Information is intended to provide the reader with known providers of services related to fly fishing in our local area and in California. This is not intended to be a complete list of available services.

Guides

Eastern Sierra:

[Sierra Drifters](#)

[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#)

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#)

[Kern River Fly Shop](#)

Northern California:

[Acosta Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead)

[Fine and Far Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead/Spey Trips)

[Baiocchi's Troutfitters](#)

San Diego Bay/Surf/Lakes:

[Conway Bowman](#)

[Alex Cady @ Fly Stop](#)

Fly Fishing Equipment:

[STROUD TACKLE](#)

[THE FLY STOP](#)

[Flies by Favorite](#)

River Flows and Reports

[Dreamflows](#)

[USGS Flows](#)

[California Data Exchange](#)

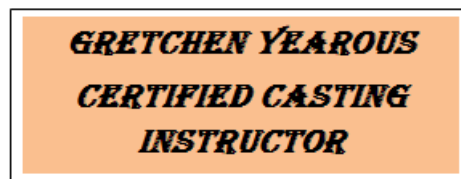
[Lower Owens River](#)



Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



Bob Berry Fish Carvings



We need your help getting rid of Carp at Lake Cuyamaca!



CARP ANGLERS WANTED, CONVENTIONAL ROD AND REEL, SPEAR, OR BOW
• KILL A CARP and FISH FOR FREE!

Board of Directors

San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2021

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Vice President vacant
Andrea Rae [Treasurer](#)
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Paul Woolery Community Outreach

David Collins Web Master
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The Indicator

Emailed twice a month
with updates and breaking
news!
Make sure you are on the
list to stay informed.

Follow SDFF adventures
and news our FACEBOOK
page. Post your own
adventures and
pictures.

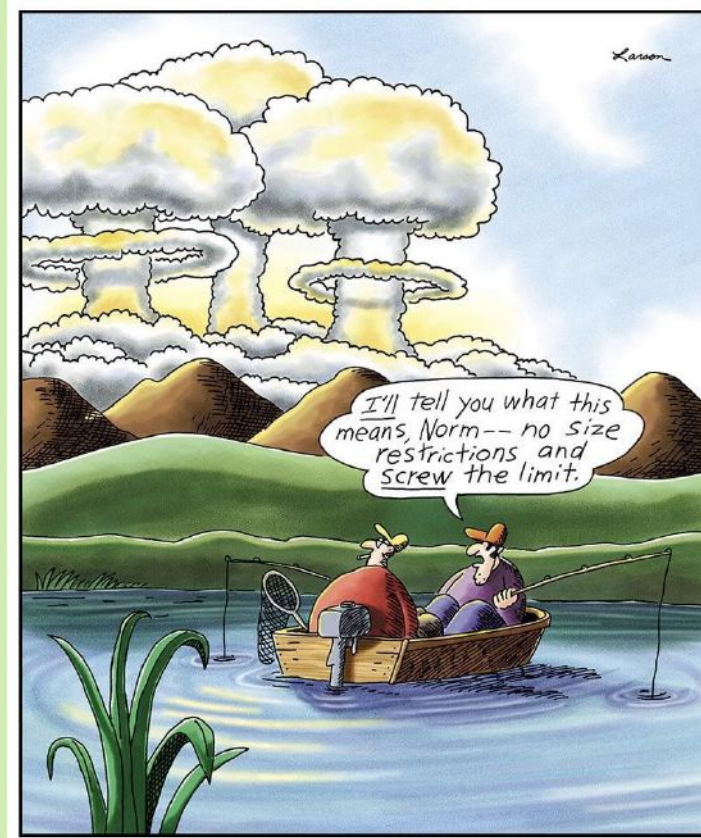
[San Diego Fly Fishers](#)

The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the last Monday of each month at the San Diego River Park Foundation Office on Pacific Hwy. (Currently held on Zoom.)

For Directions to all Club Meetings, Clinics and Fly tying classes visit our website at:
[Activities Maps](#)



Tailing Loops



Editor's note:

Politics and fishing don't mix. If we don't instinctively know this, we learn the hard way. Just as many dinner tables have unspoken rules to keep contentious exchanges from ruining everyone's meal, so too most fishermen avoid topics that distract from the business at hand: getting away from it all.

I have fished with two of my neighbors many times over the years. One was born in Montana and did a 20-year hitch in the navy. The other grew up in So-Cal and refused his invitation to Viet Nam, so they have fundamental beliefs that do not align, but we have fished together on lakes, at beaches, offshore on boats here and in Baja, and most Friday's we have a beer on my front porch. We seem to possess a filter that keeps the ideological sparks away, though being conventional tackle guys, they do give me grief for being a "wand waver."

And then it happened, over a beer a few months ago. "Who'd you vote for?" I ignored the question, but when one of my friends revealed his choice, I thought... oh no. It should have ended there but then the other guy asked "Why?" I became intensely focused on the lime in my bottle. Things escalated and my friend who'd been asked to justify his choice, stormed home. The other one looked at me and said "what's his problem?" I didn't bother to explain. You're just supposed to know these things.

The next Friday I was alone on the porch. I waited for the rift to mend itself, but finally, come January, I texted each one separately — "Someone in the club got a halibut off the beach yesterday, want to go?" I didn't get any answers, but the next day they both came by, separately, to confirm plans for a trip to Torrey Pines State Park.

It was awkwardly quiet when we met on my driveway Sunday morning, so I decided to break the ice: "You guys aren't going to bring up any sore subjects, right?" To which one replied "You aren't going to bring a fly rod again, right?"