

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

MAY 2014

San Diego Fly Fishers



Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 19, No. 5

## Monthly Meeting

### Surf Fishing in Baja

Our speaker for the May meeting is local guide **Jeff Solis**. Solis on Salt is his fly fishing company that specializes in the beaches of San Diego and Mexico.

Jeff is the former owner/operator of the San Diego Fly Shop at which time he specialized in guiding the offshore bluewater fly fishing on the East Cape of Baja, Mexico.

Jeff has been a guest speaker for numerous fly fishing clubs. He has been a guest on the radio talk show "Let's Talk Hookup". He has been featured on the TV show "Adventure Guides". And he is a freelance writer for periodicals such as *Fly Fishing in Saltwaters*, *California Flyfisher*, and *Saltwater Fly Fishing*.

#### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, May 5, 2014  
7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School  
4690 Limerick Avenue  
(See map on back page)

#### REMINDER

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

**Alan Thompson  
and Lew Walsh**

*Thank You from Lew Walsh*

### SDFP Volunteers for San Luis Rey Water Sampling

In support of the California Steel Head Recovery Project, The San Diego Fly Fishers (SDFP) have volunteered to conduct periodic water sampling along the San Luis Rey River to determine if the river can support viability of native Steelhead.

Travis Pritchard from San Diego Coastkeeper, a local non-profit organization dedicated to protect and restore fishable, swimmable and drinkable water in San Diego County, conducted a water sampling training event at Chollas Lake in February for the SDFP volunteers to ensure proper procedures were followed so that the water samples were usable.

After several scheduled attempts were cancelled due to lack of rain which kept the river dry, seven energetic volunteers from SDFP led by **Gary Strawn**, SDFP Conservation Chairman, met on March 15 to conduct water sampling of the river. The hope was that recent rains would provide enough water to allow some usable samples. The weather that day was great, but only one of the four sites had enough water to sample. During the morning, the group got a call from Travis about a reported fish kill at the river estuary in Oceanside.

After visiting the four predetermined sites along the river, the group went to the estuary. Sadly, there were about a dozen dead fish along the banks, and some others were noticeably stressed when the group arrived. Several photos and a double set of samples were taken to document the fish kill and provide enough data to determine the reason for the kill. There were no signs of pollution, and the dead fish were determined to be striped mullet. The theory for the kill was that flushed nutrients and fresh water filled the estuary due to the recent rains, but not to the point of blowing out the sand bar blocking the estuary from the ocean, trapping the mullet in the diluted salt water. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife came out to inspect the site later.

Afterwards, the volunteers gathered at famous Nussy Burgers in Fallbrook to discuss the day's events and plan for the next sampling.

The event highlighted the conservation efforts of the SDFP, and caught the attention of regional and State officials. Cynthia Gorham, Head of the Regional

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*"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles"*  
**Doug Larson**

**Fund Raiser Fever is Upon Us.** And there's a rumor there'll be no shortage of fishing "poles" at this year's event. Chairman **Lee McElravy** tells me he's already lined up more than a half dozen rods, including the usual complement of two hand crafted bamboos from our Club's master builder **Jon Holland**.

Jon is a true artist with bamboo, but he's far from the only artist in our Club. **Bob Berry**, who carves from wood and hand paints internationally acclaimed, and beautifully detailed fish; **Barry Pechersky's** hand made ceramic bowls, vases and other pieces, too beautiful to actually use; **Bruce Harris'** hand blown glass art; **Lucky Ketcham** and his crew at the **Fly Tying Congress** who produce the most beautiful flies you have ever seen. Also too beautiful to use: but who can resist.

All of these artists have donated to the annual Raffle in the past, and we hope they continue. But I know there are other artists and craftsmen out there. So don't be shy. Exercise your fine motor skills and craft a donation.

But even if you're not in the least bit artistic or crafty, you can still help. Don't forget to look through all your stuff for old new

and never used; or near-new stuff you can donate. I'm confident that with all the garb and gizmos we need for fly fishing, there will be at least a few duplications. Besides, it may lighten your load on your next trip.

Some of you are already aware, or may have heard that the Club has retained a **Senior Experience Team from California State University San Marcus**, to re-design, re-configure and modernize the Club's website. The student team, made up of two young men, and three young women, have been working on the re-design with our current web administrator **David Collins**, along with **Jim Tenuto**, and **Bruce Harris**.

The work being done by the **Team**, and **Our Guys** is way above my head, but I do attend the sessions and have the privilege of observing a roomful of very smart people creating something I believe we, as well as the public, will enjoy using. The new website will be more attractive, and include lots more features and information, including scores of photos old and new. We expect the site to go "live" sometime in May, so save your project and trip pictures and contribute them for our viewing pleasure. To prevent further revealing my tech igno-



rance, I won't say any more about the new site, except to say thanks to the aforementioned members, for their time and creativity.

Our program co-chairs, **Jon Holland** and **Bruce Bechard**, have booked another very interesting speaker for our May meeting. **Jeff Solis** is a well-known guide who will tell us about **Fly Fishing the Surf in Baja**. I believe he may emphasize fooling **Rooster Fish** with feathers and fur. You don't want to miss the May meeting. You could learn how to catch some amazing game fish. And raffle tickets will be on sale. You could buy a few.

**Annual Fund  
Raiser  
June 2, 2014  
BUY MORE  
Tickets**





**WHAT: ANNUAL CONSERVATION  
& EDUCATION FUNDRAISER**  
**WHEN: JUNE 2, 2014**  
**WHERE: SOUTHWESTERN YACHT  
CLUB**  
**WHY: SEE BELOW!**

### **AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

Each year at this time, you begin to see the ads in this publication and hear the exhortations from our Raffle Chair to “attend, buy tickets and wins lots of great stuff!” Ever cautious of becoming overly serious in this endeavor (after all, we do this for fun), I want to take a slightly different tack.

It is indeed true that an important benefit of our annual fundraiser is to give our 300+ members the opportunity to walk away with 90+ items from our drawing and silent auction. Great odds at twice the price! However, for our newer members, let me reveal to you that is not the primary goal of this undertaking.

Quoting from our *Bylaws*, the mission of the San Diego Fly Fishers “is to further the art and sport of fishing with artificial flies, and to educate members of the general public in all aspects of the art and sport of fly fishing, and the conservation of sport fishes and the waters and natural resources containing them.” Stated simply, our primary goals are education and conservation.

By way of example, as a result of our 2003 Raffle, in 2004 we donated \$4,300.00 to various conservation and education programs. By 2013, we netted over \$7,000.00 for those same purposes. Yes, in good years and bad, we have consistently increased our efforts in achieving our mission. However, given our stature among California fly fishing clubs, we can and should do more.

Over the past several years, we have broadened our joint conservation efforts with the San Diego River Park Foundation and the Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista. We have renewed our support for Cal Trout and exponentially expanded our Project Healing Waters programs. As you are well aware, we continue our weekly Fly Tying Congress and Casting Instruction. Day at the Docks, Boy Scout Fair, Chollas Lend-A-Rod. Every program is an admirable one and the list goes on and on. And they do cost money.

Your Directors are doing all they can to ensure this will be a delightful evening. If you are wondering how you can do more, let me give you a slightly different perspective. If every one of our members spent just \$50.00 on tickets and/or the silent auction, our gross revenue would immediately increase to almost \$15,000.00. Take that \$50.00 and add the \$40.00 you paid in dues this year and for less than \$100.00 for the year, you get all the benefits of being a member AND it is likely you will walk away with some really good “fly fishing stuff.” Most importantly, you will have contributed significantly to our Club mission.

I only ask you to do two things. First, if you have unused or slightly used “fly fishing stuff” and you would like to support this effort by donating it to us, please see me at the May 5th meeting or drop it off at Stroud’s by May 9<sup>th</sup>. More importantly, please give some prayerful consideration as to how you might increase your financial support this year to help us meet our goals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

*LEE MCELRAVY*  
Raffle Chair



## ***Boss of dBay***

To benefit SDRPF Boulder Creek restoration project

May 31, 2014 Tidelands Park, Coronado 5:30am – 10am  
Hosted by the San Diego Fly Fishers



Suggested donation \$20 includes breakfast.  
ALL, as in 100%, of your donation will be sent to the San Diego River Park Foundation  
to benefit the Boulder Creek trout restoration project.  
Goal is to donate \$1,000.

General release form must be signed to participate.

Registration begins @ 5:00am  
Fishing time 5:30am – 10:00am  
You can be 'on the water' prior to 5:30 start

Results registered by 10:30.  
Breakfast: 10:00 – 11:00\*  
Awards: 11:00

\*Breakfast is available for non-fishing spouses and friends.

Prizes for:  
- Most seasoned participant  
- Youngest participant  
- Most fish, 1st – 3rd  
- Other

Winner of Most Fish: Shirt monogrammed with ***Boss of dBay 2014*** along with  
bragging rights til 2015.

Prizes include: TFO fly rod, Chest/hip packs by Simms and Fishpond, Gear bags, Otis  
Redding CD's, etc.

Fly rods and artificial flies only - No scented plastics/baits/lures/worms/fish finders.  
One rod in use at a time, with limit of 2 flies in water.

Event will be rescheduled due to unsafe weather conditions; please consult your club  
web site for updates.

Current DFW fishing permit required and San Diego ocean craft rules apply  
See - <http://www.sandiego.gov/lifeguards/safety/boatreg.shtml>

Directions: Tidelands Park, Mullinix Dr, Coronado, CA 92118  
<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?name=Tidelands%20Park&address=2020%20Mullinix%20Dr&city=Coronado&state=CA&zipcode=92118>

# PORT OF SAN DIEGO'S 35TH ANNUAL FREE DAY AT THE DOCKS



San Diego Fly Fishers proved, once again, that fly fishing just isn't for trout. Attendees to the 35th Annual Day at the Docks were treated to fly tying demonstrations. Free Clouser pins were given to kids of all ages. A multitude of information was given out on fly fishing our bays, beaches and local lakes.

Thanks to the following members for making our booth a great success:

Lew Walsh, Barry Pechersky, Jon Hee, Lee McElravy, Connor Dreas, Lucky Ketcham, Paul Woolery and especially Cheryl Cline, whose Silver Salmon flies caught everyone's attention.

Thanks also to our friends and family and members who dropped by to support our efforts.

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## Annual Star/Pal Children's Fishing Derby June 20th and 21st

San Diego Fly Fishers will be supporting the San Diego Police Departments annual Star/Pal children's fishing derby to be held at Lake Chollas on June 21st.



Volunteers are needed on June 20th to assemble fishing rods in preparation for the derby the following day. Those interested in volunteering on Friday June 20th are asked to meet at the picnic area North of the parking lot at 10:00 am. Lunch will be provided. Please bring small tools such as nippers or scissors for cutting line.

On Saturday June 21st plan on arriving at Chollas Lake at 6:30 am. Coffee and pastries will be available. All volunteers will receive a tee-shirt to identify them as an official volunteer. Saturdays volunteers will be working directly with the children helping them to fish. Volunteers will also be manning three repair stations to untangle massive wind knots that seem to occur. We will not be using handy talkies this year. Instead it has been decided to use cell phones as almost everyone has one. You will be provided phone numbers to call in the event of an emergency. Again lunch will be provided for the volunteers and derby participants.

We can use all the help we can muster. You can volunteer for either day or both days or just a few hours either day. Figure on working on Friday for about 4 hours. On Saturday the derby should finish up about noon or a little after.

Please contact Paul Woolery for any additional information.

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Art,

Please convey the appreciation of the Veterans who attended the Lake Murray fly casting day. The Veterans and myself had a wonderful time.

They came back to the VA a little tired, but full of enthusiasm for fly fishing. They can't wait until April 17th when we will see you in Fallbrook!

v/r  
Ellen

Ellen Berman, RTC  
Physical Medicine & Rehab Service  
San Diego VA Healthcare

### SDFF Volunteers continued from page 1

Water Board's Monitoring and Assessment Unit, acknowledged the efforts of the club volunteers, saying SDFF volunteers saved the day! "You were out and collected samples before the dying, decaying fish changed the water quality in this system. This is exactly why I think that volunteers are so VERY valuable. Volunteers are out there in the field when we need them most!"

It's great to see that the State officials notice and appreciate all of the fine work being done by club volunteers. If we get some more rain, we'll be back out again in May.

### New Committee Chairperson: Media Coordinator

The primary purpose of this new position is to assure that club activities, news, stories, etc. are made known to the club members in both a timely and accurate manner. It is the Board's hope that at some point Steve will become a single point of contact for providing accurate, detailed information to both the Finny Facts and the website; along with outside media of interest.

Meantime Steve will do his best to remind committee chairs, and event planners to get their information to the club's media in a timely manner.

Steve's contacts:

---Steve Vissers



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## International Federation of Fly Fishers Fly Fishing Faire Facts

Event Name: 2014 Fly Fishing Faire  
Where: Mammoth Lakes, Calif  
Venue: Cerro Coso Community College  
101 College Parkway  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
Theater: Minaret Cinemas  
439 Old Mammoth Rd.  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546



Faire Fone:

When: September 19–21, 2014

What: A celebration of fly-fishing in Mammoth Lakes, the heart of California's fly-fishing world; an introduction to all aspects of the sport including fly casting, fly tying demonstrations and instruction.

Workshops and programs on –

- Beginning fly fishing, equipment, techniques
- Beginning fly tying
- Hot Creek
- Upper and lower Owens River
- Saltwater Fly Fishing
- Lake Crowley
- Pyramid Lake
- Walker River Basin
- Merced River
- Yosemite waters
- Small stream tactics
- Wildlife photography

Hours: Fri. – 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat. – 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sun. – 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Registration: Opens July 13, 2014

\$15 adults. \$10 for Eastern Sierra residents. Age 16 and under free. (Single admission is good all Faire days.) Separate registration fees for some classes, seminars and film showings.

Sponsors: Southwest Council International Federation of Fly Fishers, City of Mammoth Lakes, Giovani's, Snow Creek Resort, Fred Hall Fishing and more ...

Website: [southwestcouncilfff.org/faire](http://southwestcouncilfff.org/faire)

Information: **Michael Schweit**, president, SWC IFFF –

**Connie Bullock**, Faire Director, Southwest Council IFFF –

Media: **Bennett J. Mintz**, VP, Southwest Council IFFF –



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## Olive Matuka



- Type:** Streamer - hook 3X long  
**Hook:** Daiichi 2220 size #2 to #12, TMC 5263, Mustad 9572 3XL  
**Thread:** Olive or black 6/0 Uni Thread  
**Tail:** Grizzly hen saddle dyed olive, Chickabou, (or rooster) two to four  
**Rib:** Medium silver wire of oval tinsel  
**Underbody:** Lead wire or lead substitute  
**Body:** Olive medium chenille or dyed rabbit fur or dyed squirrel  
**Hackle:** Grizzly saddle dyed olive  
**Instructions:** This fly can be tied in a number of different colors to suit your local fish. Try it in black, orange or red for starters. (Olive is the best color.)

The idea of binding the hackle wing along the top of the hook shank originated in New Zealand over 50 years ago. The name comes from the bird whose feathers were used for the wing of the first versions of this pattern. The fly represents fry or minnows, but also makes an effective suggestive pattern of something a hungry trout would like to eat. It is a style that makes for a very robust wing that resembles the long dorsal fin of a bait fish. The Matuka fly is a Streamer/Lure pattern. They were introduced to the USA and the rest of the world about 1975. They have been tied in just about every color combination you can imagine. Have the hackle wings of a streamer fly you were using ever twisted round the gape of a hook while casting? When this happens, the fly moves through the water like a propeller, instead of swimming with a smooth, minnow-like action. If this really annoys you then change to using Matuka style flies.

In Britain this type of fly is called a 'Lure'. Streamers (including hair-wings/bucktails) represent various

small fish, and are tied on long-shanked hooks. They may be tied as deceivers, imitations of local small baitfish or as vivid colorful attractors that suggest something alive, edible or a threat. The attractors are also designed to stimulate a predatory fish's aggression. They are usually a little heavier than the nymphs, and the wind resistance can vary depending on the particular fly.

A streamer is tied with soft feathers, such as cock saddle hackles or marabou, and is intended for fishing in relatively small and calm waters. By contrast, bucktails are tied with hair wings instead of feathers - originally hair from a deer's tail, hence the name but also squirrel hair. They are more suitable for fishing in broad, fast waters.

Historically, streamers belong to the American east coast, while bucktails come from the west coast. All these flies are fished in the same way. It is both the easiest way of fly-fishing, and the method that yields the biggest fish! This may sound paradoxical, but it isn't. There are two reasons: you can do nothing wrong

with a big streamer or buck-tail and the fact is that big fish prefer big flies.

The nice thing about small fish compared with tiny insects and crustaceans is that, to a great extent, they can oppose the current. Being strong swimmers, they commonly dare to enter more open and rapid water. As a result, the fly-fisherman can fish his flies almost anywhere he likes: up or down or across the stream, either fast or slow. The fly will be equally attractive in all cases, and you need not worry about whether the fly will drag. Really large fish have long ago given up eating small insects in favor of more substantial young fish. Otherwise they would never have reached the size that makes them so desirable to us!

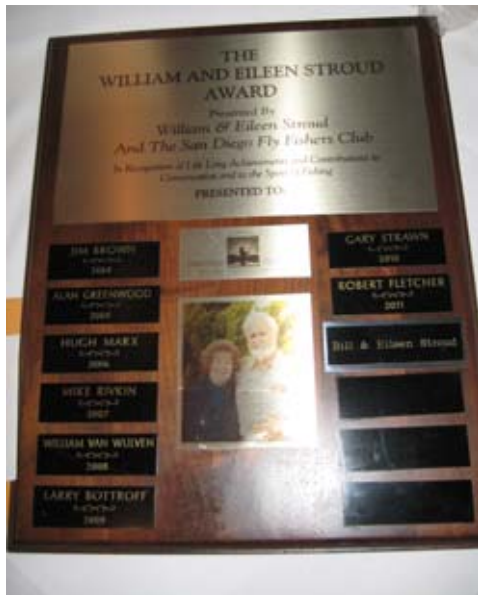


Lucky Ketcham





Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**  
 2004-Jim Brown  
 2005-Allen Greenwood  
 2006- Hugh Marx  
 2007- Mike Rivkin  
 2008- Bill Van Wulven  
 2009- Larry Bottroff  
 2010- Gary Strawn  
 2011- Bob Fletcher  
 2012- Bill and Eileen Stroud



Cutoff date for **May FINNY FACTS**  
 articles---**Friday May 16th.**

Send articles to:  
 Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

Thanks!!

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

Alan Reoch

## EILEEN STROUD CONSERVATION FUND



Donations are gratefully  
 accepted  
 Make checks payable to Eileen  
 Stroud Conservation Fund

Mail to:  
 Stroud Conservation Fund  
 1457 Morena Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92110

**All funds collected in Eileen's name will be do-  
 nated to fresh water fish conservation or research  
 programs in San Diego County.**

### LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill and Eileen Stroud (in mem),  
 Bernie Hammes (in mem), Hugh Turner (in mem), Nancy Pitts,  
 Bob Wisner (in mem), Ken Armer, Glen Paul (in mem), Betty  
 Coram, Ned Sewell (in mem), John Kasten (in mem), Leo  
 Bergevin (in mem), George Beach (in mem), Bob Camp (in  
 mem), Marvin Darling, Gene Jerzewski, Oz Osborn (in mem),  
 Robbie Robinson (in mem), John Gauld (in mem), Lloyd  
 Jefferies (in mem), Doug Joseph, Gary Hilbers, Tom Smith,  
 Bud Olsen

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Bob  
 Fletcher, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood, Mike Rivkin, Bill Van  
 Wulven, Larry Bottroff, Aubrey Wendling (in memoriam), Bob  
 Berry

Recipients of the:

### GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service  
 to the flyfishing community

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

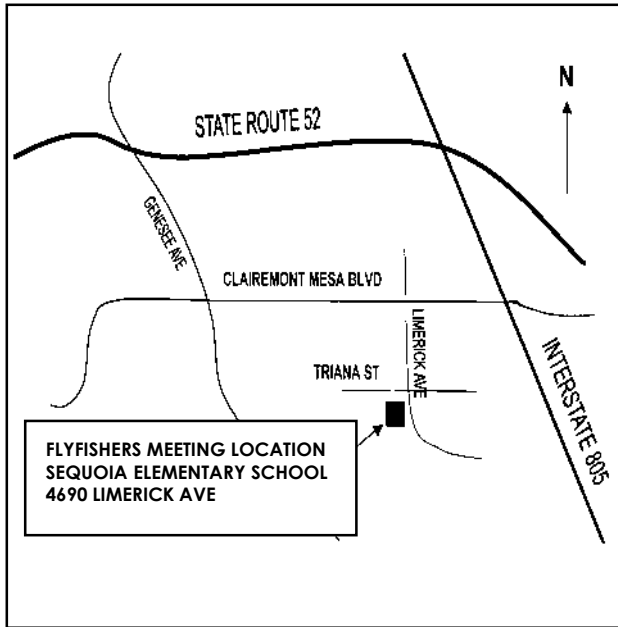


**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS  
2014 DIRECTORS**

Jack Duncan-President  
 Alan Thompson-Vice Pres.  
 Bruce Harris-Treasurer  
 Bruce Michael-Secretary  
 Bob Blazer  
 Bruce Bechard  
 Don Davis  
 Fred Gregory  
 Jon Holland  
 Lee McElravy  
 Art Reifman  
 Alan Reoch  
 Kurt Ruble  
 Gary Strawn  
 Jim Tenuto  
 Steve Vissers  
 Lew Walsh  
 Paul Woolery

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIRPERSONS**

Annual Fund Raiser  
 Lee McElravy  
Conservation-  
 Gary Strawn  
FFF Southwest Council-  
 Don Davis  
Fly Casting Clinic-  
 Lee Anderson  
Fly Tying Clinic-  
 Lucky Ketcham  
Media Coordinator-  
 Steve Vissers



Membership-  
 Alan Reoch  
Newsletter-  
 Rose & Roger Yamasaki  
 E-mail:  
Programs-  
 Jon Holland  
 Bruce Bechard  
Raffles-  
 Lew Walsh (monthly)

Refreshments-  
 Bob Blazer  
Rod Building-  
 Jack Duncan  
Travel-  
 Paul Woolery  
Video & Library-  
 Bill Stock  
Web Page-  
 David Collins  
[www.sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://www.sandiegoflyfishers.com)

Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa. Keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



**San Diego Flyfishers  
10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd. #327  
San Diego, CA 92124**

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San Diego, CA 92124**



**San Diego  
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*Official Chapter of  
Federation of Fly Fishers*

**SINCE 1962**