

ON THE FLY

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
FLY FISHERS CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY
OVER 50 YEARS OF SERVING OUR MEMBERS!



MAY 2023

Inside This Issue

Our May Meeting will be at the Pom & Olive Restaurant in Costa Mesa. Remember, the meeting start time has been changed to **6:30pm**. See Page 3 for meeting info.

News: Columbia Sportswear Discounts for FFCOC Members, Club Auction Preparations, Save the Dates; Club Picnic and Public Casting Clinic, FFCOC Scholarship Awarded, and more...

Next Club Outing: Hot Creek Ranch (July 14-17). There is room for one more angler on the Yellowstone Outing! Check with Larry Behm.

Check the website Events Calendar and join in the activities of **YOUR** Club!!

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www.ffcoc.org



President's Message

President's Message by Brian Mayer

Here we are in May 2023, and what a start it has been. California statewide snowpack at 237% of normal with a high water content. Now, we will have to see how the snowmelt and runoff will affect our favorite fishing sites.



It was great to see another large turn out for our wonderful April speaker Landon Mayer. We are at capacity for the Pom & Olive location. The committee continues its search for a new venue capable of larger meeting groups. If you know of a location, please contact any Board member and let us know.

Cruising the Aegean Sea, I begin to wonder how I could fish from the ship. Many of the islands we have stopped at have rivers and creeks that only flow in limited seasons, so no surviving fish to catch. Many of the current cities are built on top of ancient town remains, whose water supply was based on populations far smaller than present day. Fly fishing is not a sport considered by the local peoples. Fishing is for subsistence. Perhaps, a Clouser fly can be tossed on the Aegean shore. We are truly fortunate to be able to practice our sport.

As I sort through my fishing bags, fly tying equipment, rods, reels and other gear, I begin to see the items that have started to collect dust. Perfectly great stuff that I just don't use anymore. Time to think about setting these aside for the Club Auction!

May is the month that we remember and honor our Mothers. To all the mothers in our Club, I wish you a very happy Mother's Day. Without mothers like you, we would not have the great fishing Club that we enjoy!

Best regards,
Brian Mayer
President, 2023

FFCOC Meeting Venue



General Meeting Location

Standard Reminder: Note the change in the Meeting Start Time!



Our General Meeting for May will be at the Pom & Olive Restaurant in Costa Mesa. The Pom & Olive Restaurant will continue to host our monthly meetings until announced otherwise.



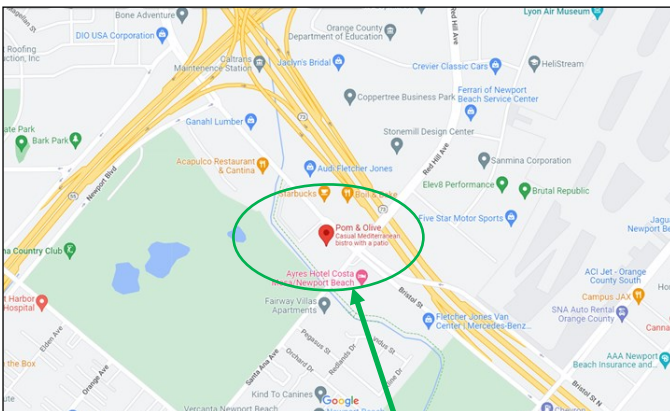
Pom & Olive is located at 1400 Bristol Street, Building C in Costa Mesa. (See map below)

Our meeting will continue to be the Happy Hour format (no served dinner). You may of course arrive early and have your dinner at Pom & Olive before the start of the Club Social hour!

A reminder that the meeting schedule was adjusted in February to allow enough time to socialize, have some Club announcements, guest speaker presentation, and conclude our evening by 9 PM.

Our adjusted start time is at 6:30 pm; Wet Fly socialization with appetizers and cash bar provided by Pom & Olive, Club business at 7:15 pm, with our guest speaker at 7:30 pm.

Meeting Fee: \$10



Pom & Olive Restaurant:

1400 Bristol Street, Building C
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Come and join us!
Guests are always welcome!!

2023 Speakers

MONTHLY SPEAKER PROGRAM

January	Chris King	The Wonders of Northern California	01/11/23
February	Gary Bulla	Baja Adventures	02/08/23
March	Abram Tucker (CDFW)	Inland Trout Populations in our Local Mountains	03/08/23
April	Landon Mayer	Guide Flies for Tough Trout	04/12/23
May	Marlon Rampy	Oregon's Redband Trout Routes	05/10/23
June	George Daniel	TBA	06/14/23
July	Alex Cady	Bass in Southern California	07/12/23
August	Club Picnic	William Mason Regional Park (Irvine) (Shelter #1)	08/12/23
September	Club Auction	Live - Santa Ana Elks Lodge	09/06/23
October	Kesley Gallagher	Trout - Chasing All the Species	10/11/23
November	Rick Ferrante	Horse Packing in the Sierra Nevada	11/08/23
December	TBA	TBA	12/13/23

Oregon's Redband Trout Routes

By

Marlon Rampy



When we think of Oregon fly fishing, many of us focus only on the *Deschutes*, the *Rogue* and the *Umpqua*. But, as we're about to discover, thinking in only those terms would be seriously shortchanging ourselves and Oregon. **Our May 10th presenter, Marlon Rampy will show us many impressive trout opportunities, including Oregon's famous redband variety, that exist along central Oregon's north-south Highway 97.**

Highway 97 offers such scenic, rich tail waters as the *Crooked River*, loaded with high fish counts. And the crystalline headwaters of the *Upper Deschutes River* will put you on some of the most picturesque brook trout water imaginable. An encounter with the legendary callibaetis hatches of *East Lake* and *Hosmer Lake* - "The Pearl of the Cascades" and many other spectacular fisheries near Bend, Oregon will leave you with spectacular fly fishing dreams that are within striking distance of Southern California.

At the southern end of Highway 97, you can find the *Wood River*, see how to float the *Williamson River*, and explore an expansive *Klamath Lake* system, home to Oregon's largest redband trout!

Some of the largest trout in the mainland 48 states (fish up to 20 pounds!) are quietly swimming, finning, and eating in the spring-fed rivers and lakes along Oregon's lovely 97. **From the Klamath Basin all the way to Bend, Marlon Rampy will show us about this fantastic fly fishing playground.**

Marlon is originally from southwest Washington. The summer he was 10, Marlon visited relatives in Montana, and, under the guise of working, he pursued his love of fly fishing on pretty streams around Bozeman. After high school, Marlon attended Lee University in Tennessee where he discovered new trout water in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. Graduation from college brought opportunities for exciting fishing in eastern North Carolina, where Marlon had moved to begin a job. There he learned about the fun of fly fishing saltwater for stripers and blues, super aggressive fish that represented a big change from freshwater trout. But trout was still his first love.

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This Month's Speaker (Con't)

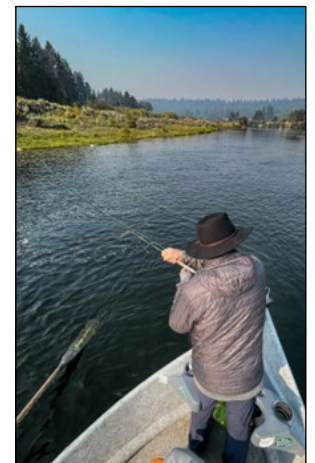
So, in 1991, Marlon returned to the Northwest to reacquaint himself with the beautiful trout and steelhead streams of the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington. Through his experiences in the Southeast, he had learned to appreciate the natural beauty of central and southern Oregon. With a desire to become an outstanding fly fishing guide, Marlon started working at *McKenzie Outfitters Fly Shop* in Medford, Oregon teaching students to cast, tie flies and fish the local streams.

Today, Marlon has been fishing and guiding these waters for more than two decades and, from all testimonials (many from our own members), has achieved his goal of becoming an outstanding guide. He has fished for Rogue steelhead and the trophy trout throughout the Klamath Basin. For nineteen years Marlon worked with the Lonesome Duck Lodge on the banks of the *Williamson* before setting up his independent guide service. **The Williamson remains his top favorite for large native trout.** Situated within 45 minutes of Crater Lake National Park, the Lodge is also near a major flyway and the Klamath National Wildlife Preserve, where multitudes of birdlife are in abundant evidence.

A highly accomplished and admired photographer, Marlon's work can be found in *Northwest Fly Fishing* magazine, *CATCH* webzine, *Flyfishing and Tying Journal* and many *Amato Publications*. He practices catch and release fishing techniques, recognizing that the native Klamath Basin redband trout is a limited resource and more than worthy of this practice.

Since its inception in 1995, **Marlon's guide business, Wildwest Fly Fishing**, has steadily gained a dedicated and popular following as a quality fly fishing experience. For more information go to:

<https://www.flyfishoregon.com/>



Club News

Membership

Please Welcome Our Newest Members!

March

Richard Ayer (San Clemente)
Dustin Hayward (Fountain Valley)

April

Juan Llano (Redondo Beach)

Columbia Sportswear Employee Discount Store

Do you need new fishing pants or sungloves for this season?

Columbia Sportswear is once again offering our Club Members an opportunity to shop in their employee stores in May. You can get very nice products at significantly reduced prices.

You can access two Employee Stores. West Covina or Carlsbad.

Columbia Employee Store Perk Details:

- Fly Fishers Club of Orange County offer is valid May 5-28!
- Store Pricing: All product is current season merchandise and is priced up to 50% off retail cost.
- Members must show their valid offer plus a work ID for access and can bring up to 4 additional guests with them. **(For ID bring copy of the email)** The invitation email was sent to all current FFCOC members on Tuesday, April 25, by Larry Behm. Check your Inbox.

This is an exclusive invitation for FFCOC members; you may also access the Invitation at the following Club Website Link: <https://FFCOC.clubexpress.com/docs.ashx?id=1151626>

FFCOC Annual Club Auction

This year's Club Auction will held on Wednesday, September 6, in the Grand Ballroom at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge. The planning for the event is active!

FFCOC Purchase Items: The Club has an opportunity to purchase products from Far Bank Enterprises (Sage, Reddington and RIO brands) at extremely aggressive prices for our Auction. If you have a Sage, Reddington, or RIO product that you would like purchased by the Club for the Auction, then please forward your purchase request to our President, Brian Mayer. As a purchase requester, you are then obligated to make the opening bids on the items you requested on Auction night. This is a Win-Win for our Club, and for our membership; the Club makes some \$\$\$ on the Auction bidding, and the membership has an opportunity to purchase quality gear at prices not available to the public. The Club has a promo code from Far Bank allowing a one-time purchase of Sage, Redington, and/or RIO gear; all member requests will be purchased with a single one-time order. Please forward your specific product purchase request directly to our President, Brian Mayer, to be a part of the one-time order!!

Club News (Con't)

FFCOC Annual Club Auction (Con't)

Auction Donations: Do you have lightly used fishing gear no longer in use? Have you finished Spring cleaning and found any unwanted items that are too good to throw away? The Club can use those items in it's Fall Auction. We are looking for any and all donations you may have for the Fall Auction. The Club can use any items of value. Can you donate a bottle of wine (or a case), an unused rod, extra waist pack or other useful items? Please bring your donated items to an upcoming Club meeting. We'll handle the rest. We'll take them to the locker for safe storage, categorize them, place them out for bid at the Auction, and make some \$\$\$ for the Club!! Can't be at a upcoming meeting? You have too much stuff to bring to a meeting?? Contact President Mayer; he'll arrange for a pickup of your treasures using his cadre of available volunteers!!

Volunteers: Speaking of volunteers, do you want to help in the Fall Auction? We need volunteers to transport items to/from the locker, set-up tables, staff the check-in table, collect money, and run purchases to the counter. Please Contact President Mayer to volunteer and to be added to the cadre list! As the old saying goes, many hands make light work.

Club Events Announcements

Annual FFCOC Picnic. Save the Date! The date and venue for our Annual Club Picnic is now set; Saturday, August 12, 2023, 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM, at William Mason Regional Park (Shelter 1) in Irvine. The event is moving to Mason Regional Park (from Irvine Park) due to congestion and parking difficulties experienced last year. The Club does not hold a monthly meeting in August, so come and join us at the picnic. The cost is **FREE!!** There is a \$5 Entry Fee to the Park. Enjoy an afternoon of Food, Games, Prizes, Fun and Fellowship with your fellow Club Members. All members and their guests are invited! Volunteers will be needed to host the event; site setup, grill technicians (cooks), food station preps and setup, game execution, cleanup and site teardown, etc. Please look for a call for volunteers communique. Your requests and suggestions for a great picnic event are welcome as well!!

Event Coordinator: Terry Roznos, taronos@verizon.net

Public Casting Clinic. Save the Date! The date and venue for our Annual Casting Clinic is now set; Saturday, September 16, 2023, 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM (TBA), at William Mason Regional Park (Shelter 1) in Irvine. This is our Club main public outreach event to support and raise awareness of the sport of flyfishing! The public and Club members are welcome to join the event. The Casting Clinic concludes with a **FREE** BBQ for all participants and volunteers. Club Member volunteers will be needed to help with set up, running the event, cooking on the BBQ's and clean-up. Please look for a call for volunteers!

Event Coordinator: Ken Lindt, ken.lindt@gmail.com

FFCOC Marine Studies Scholarship

Each year the FFCOC provides a \$3,000 scholarship to an under-graduate or graduate level student in marine related studies at a CSU Campus, and demonstrates a commitment to community service in the fisheries biology field. This year, thanks to the generous donations made to the Marine Studies Scholarship fund to honor the memory of Richard Fanning, an additional \$3,000 scholarship was made available.



This past year eight well deserving student candidates applied for the scholarship. Steven Watanabe and his committee evaluated each of the candidates, created a composite rating from each of the Club reviewers evaluations, and transmitted the our results to the CSU Foundation for final award selection and announcement. The FFCOC is now pleased to announce the 2022-23 FFCOC Marine Studies Scholarship award winner; Chelsea Bowers, M.S. Graduate Student – CSU Fullerton.

Letter of Gratitude. Lori Redfearn, President, CSU Foundation; the administrator of the FFCOC Marine Studies Scholarship award process.



Dear Mr. Mayer,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your \$6,000 gift toward the 2023-24 Fly Fishers Club of Orange County Scholarship. The contributions made to the California State University are invaluable and play a crucial role, both in our advancement efforts and in the educational success of the students we serve. We simply could not perform this vital work without this support.

The CSU is the most significant force for social mobility in the nation. Our 23 universities transform individual lives and drive California's economic prosperity and societal progress. With your support, we will continue to advance access and success for students from all backgrounds as we prepare the leaders of tomorrow.

With gratitude,



Lori A. Redfearn
President, CSU Foundation

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FFCOC Marine Studies Scholarship (con't)

Letter of Gratitude. 2022-23 FFCOC Marine Studies Scholarship recipient; Chelsea Bowers.

To the President, Fly Fishers Club of Orange County,

April 14, 2022

My name is Chelsea Bowers, and I am one of your gracious recipients of the Fly Fishers Club of Orange County AY 2022-2023. First, I want to thank you for how much this award means to me, as it is my first award in my academic career. It goes without saying that I will cherish this moment and generosity you have bestowed to help brand me award-winning woman in STEM possible, thank you!

I am a second-year graduate student in the M.S. Biological Science program in Dr. Erin Misty Paig-Tran's lab. My thesis research focuses on a ubiquitous emergent pollutant in marine environments, microplastics (particles and fibers: 20-500 μm in length). Major sources of microplastics stem from anthropogenic plastic-littered effluent draining into coastal waters specifically in the Southern California Bight (SCB). The SCB is inhabited by a diverse array of marine animals and is characterized by its complex circulating currents that move polluted effluent water away from the coast. I am focusing on Pacific sardines (*Sardinops sagax*) seasonally feeding within the SCB, as they are a commercially important fish for bait, as well as human and animal consumption. Pacific sardines filter-feed on zooplankton in the same size range as marine microplastics and are therefore vulnerable to ingesting microplastics. My goal is to use this experience from CSU Fullerton and gain employment at the Los Angeles or Orange County Sanitation District and aide in their on-going works with marine pollutants and help mitigate the exponential rise of microplastics entering our food webs.

My microplastic research is heavily laboratory intensive followed by many hours spent in microscopy and image analysis. However, the majority of my time during my academic career has been spent earning money to pay for rent, living expenses and health insurance. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I was employed as a bartender (part-time) to subsidize my income along with employment as a teaching assistant and research technician. This was necessary to work three jobs, as CSUF only allows 20 hours/week during the academic year at a non-livable wage. COVID-19 removed my most lucrative form of income and has now indebted me to increase student loans and hours of employment, ultimately prolonging my graduate program. This award will ensure me to decrease those student loans, alleviating my financial stress focus my time on data collection, data analysis and thesis writing.

Not only will this award alleviate financial stress, a commonality among my peers during this pandemic, but this has given the boost of confidence I needed to strive forward. Your generosity to CSU Fullerton and graduate students, like myself, has made an astronomical impact on this community of forward thinkers in biology of fisheries.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Bowers

Chelsea Bowers
M.S. Graduate Student – CSU Fullerton



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

Club News (Con't)

Newsletter

Newsletter inputs for the next (June) edition are due to the 2023 Editor by **Friday, May 26**, to meet publication deadlines. All submittals are gratefully accepted; Board Member announcements, Club News, Fish Tales, Fly of the Month, Outing Streamkeepers, or just general commentary from you (our readers)! Please send your inputs or suggestions to the 2023 Editor, Terry Roznos, at the email address provided. Thank you!! tarnoznos@verizon.net

Club News - Events



Beginning Fly Tying Class



The FFCOC Beginning Fly Tying Class continues its 8-week curriculum. The Class met two Saturdays in March, and three Saturdays in April in the Main Lobby Conference Room at Matt Conrad's office building in Lake Forest. The March sessions the students tied the San Juan Worm, Zebra Midge, and the Pheasant Tail. The April sessions the students tied the Pumpkin Spice (Frenchie), Elk Hair Caddis, and the Parachute Adams. Each class focuses on tying one or two flies, with emphasis on developing and building techniques, handling new materials, and skill building. The Fly Instructions and Class Syllabus may be found on the Fly Tying Forum on the Club Website. The Class will meet three more Saturdays in May.



Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC and LBCC



Although the Lower Owens outing had to be cancelled due to high water, the Women's Fly Fishing Group has been hosting programs to keep women engaged. There are on-going programs, as well as special projects coming up!

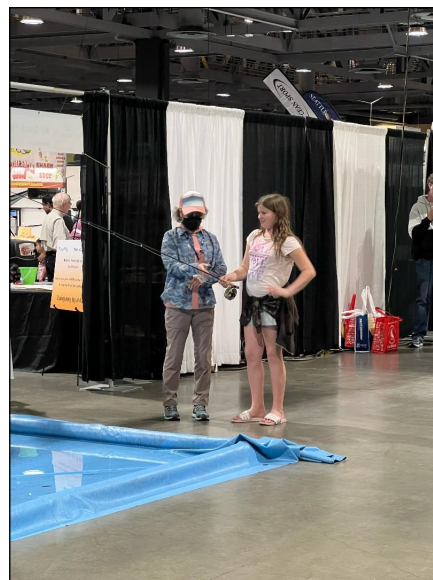
Monthly Casting Clinic: The Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC and LBCC is currently holding a monthly Casting Clinic every first Sunday of the month from 10 am until noon at the Long Beach Casting Club pond, with Kathy Kim hosting. The Clinic is open to beginning as well as intermediate fly casters, and also for on-demand coaching, which means the instructors will only work with you if you ask for one-on-one coaching. Starting in May, Kathy plans to incorporate the "FFI Skills Challenge Program" during the First Sunday Casting Clinic, beginning with the Bronze Skills Challenge. Please come and join us!

Local Small Lake/Pond Fishing: The Women's Fly Fishing Group is planning a half-day outing to a local lake or a pond for the ladies who took the On the River Clinic classroom session on February 11th. Date, time and location will be announced shortly.

Fly Fishing Outing: August 25-28: This trip is limited to 10 participants, with priority given to ladies who participated in the On the River Clinic classroom session. This is an opportunity to apply skills learned during the classroom session as well as acquiring on the water practical skills. Please inquire with Kathy about details.

In addition, Tina Montemer and Anissa Iseda volunteered at the Bart Hall Show on April 2nd promoting the Women's Programming. Kathy Kim also volunteered as a casting instructor at the show.

How about some photos (Bart Hall Show)...



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Club News - Events (Con't)

Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC and LBCC (Con't)

April Casting Clinic (Long Beach Casting Club - Casting Pond)...



Continued, next page →

Club News - Events (Con't)

Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC and LBCC (Con't)

Please inquire with Jane Helmeczi, FFCOC Women's Program Liaison, or Tina Montemer, Social Media Coordinator, if you are interested in joining the Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC & LBCC. Contact info is listed below.

Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC & LBCC Contacts:

- Kathy Kim, Women's Program Lead. kimkathy@sbcglobal.net
- Jane Helmeczi, FFCOC Women's Program Liaison. janehelmeczi@yahoo.com
- Tina Montemer, Social Media Coordinator. tmontemer@gmail.com

Join the Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC & LBCC on Facebook at:

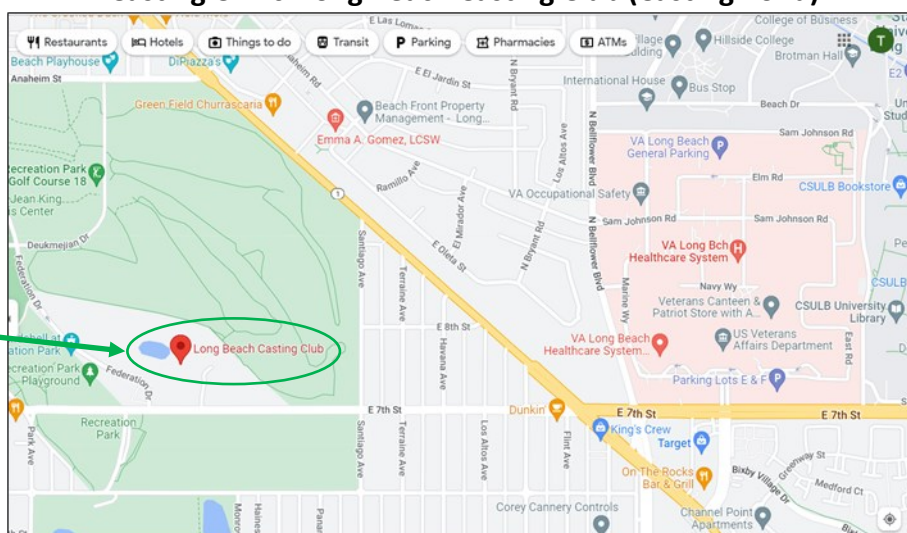
[Women's Fly Fishing Group of FFCOC & LBCC | Facebook](#)



Casting Clinic: Long Beach Casting Club (Casting Pond)

Long Beach Casting Club
5201 E 7th St, Long Beach, 90804

Enter Long Beach Recreation Park at
the first driveway west of Santiago Ave.
Proceed to parking and the LBCC.





Trout in the Classroom (TIC)

Huntington Beach High School

Trout Release (Eisenhower Park, Orange CA)

FFCOC Mentors: Gill Realon, Kelly Yokeo, Alan Ross, Terry Roznos and Brian Mayer

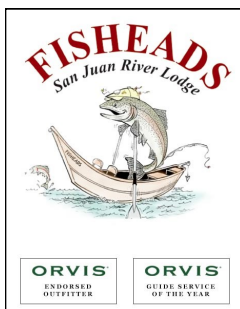
On April 5, your FFCOC Mentors assisted the Huntington Beach High School Biology Class in their trout release into the pond at Eisenhower Park in Orange. In addition to the trout release, we provided the students with a basic introduction into Fly Fishing; equipment, knots, fly tying, and of course casting! Biology instructor Sarah Hatfield sent the following note of thanks to the FFCOC volunteers; *"I am so grateful for another successful field trip. You guys rock! The kids really enjoyed learning from you all and kept talking about how much fun they had. Thank you again for making it happen."* Here are a couple of photos of the Huntington Beach High School event...



Club News - Outing Report (San Juan River, NM)

San Juan River Outing - March 2023

Submitted by: Brian Mayer and Eric Kramer



Ten members of our Club made the annual trip to northern New Mexico to fish the San Juan River in March. There were the usual suspects – the Moores, the Roznos, Eric Kramer, Bob Bess, Bob Theemling and Brian Mayer. We were joined by new member David McClure, and member new to the trip – Ric Romero.

The first day drive had some excitement. The I-40 road conditions from Arizona border to Flagstaff are awful! There are many large potholes, and the pavement is crumbling. Dozens of vehicles were disabled on the side of the highway with blown tires and damaged suspension. As a result, the frame cross-member on Eric's truck

holding up the fuel tank disintegrated. Luckily, Brian had family in Arizona and his Uncle was able to rescue them and brought a loaner truck for the rest of the trip to New Mexico.

The San Juan River was cloudy milk tea colored for two of the days and semi-greenish for one day. Water temperatures were colder than normal – mid-30's. Water conditions prevented any sight fishing, so catching was by the luck of getting flies in the face of fish. On one day, we were again challenged by the wind.

Due to the cold and cloudy water, relatively lower numbers of fish were caught compared to previous years, but everyone managed to have successful catches. Eric Kramer was the top fisherperson with 49 fish including a 22-inch Brown and a 22-inch Rainbow. Cheryl Moore was the big fish winner catching a whopping 28+ inch Rainbow that weighed around 10 pounds. This was the largest fish ever on our annual Club trips to the San Juan River. Unfortunately, a camera malfunction means no great pictures of the fish. Brian Mayer was second on big fish with a personal best 26-inch, 7-pound Brown trout, and also a 25-inch, 5 pound Rainbow. Bob Theemling caught the first ever, and largest fish ever on the trip – a 15 pound golden Carp! Bob Bess had a good day catching 3 fish over 20-inches each. Janna and Terry Roznos had consistent catches with Janna out fishing Terry as usual. Newbies, Ric Romero and Dave McClure said they love all of it as both caught their largest trout ever.

New Mexico is finally recovering from the hard hit by the Covid pandemic, and most restaurants are open for in person dining again. We had wonderful dinners at Back Cast Café at Fisheads Lodge. We were able to have our traditional dinners at Wonderful House Chinese and Tex-Mex at the Rubio's in Aztec. Surprisingly, the Sportsman's Grill just up the hill is now open on a regular schedule.

On the return trip, the Roznos encountered more I-40 excitement. Their travel trailer experienced a suspension leaf spring break. They were able to get it replaced while enjoying the comforts of the Twin Arrows Casino parking lot camping.

All things considered, it was another Best Outing of the year (so far) for our Club!

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Club News - Outing Report (San Juan River, NM)

San Juan River Outing - Photos



The Whole Gang at Fisheads Lodge



Cheryl Moore's 28+ inch big fish

Continued, next page →

Club News - Outing Report (San Juan River, NM)

San Juan River Outing - Photos (con't)



Cheryl and Jim Moore with Guide Bubba



Bob and Bob with Guide Manny



Bob Theemling's Carp, First ever for Club Trip



Ric Romero with nice Brown Trout



Great colorful Rainbow for Ric Romero

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Club News - Outing Report (San Juan River, NM)

San Juan River Outing - Photos (con't)



Colorful Rainbow for Eric Kramer



Nice Rainbow for Brian Mayer



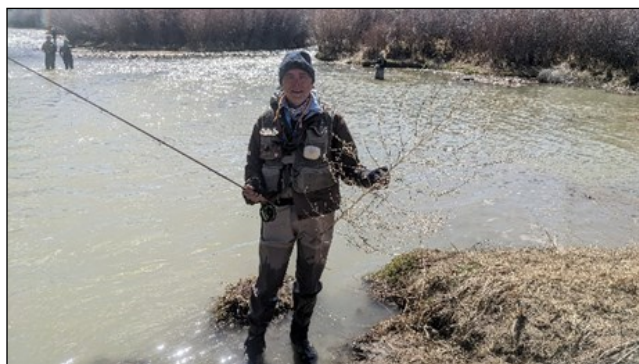
Janna Roznos with Guide Marty



Terry Roznos with Guide Marty



Fiberglass Hatch on the Texas Hole!



Brian's Record 36 inch Tumbleweed catch

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Club News - Outing Report (San Juan River, NM)

San Juan River Outing - Photos (con't)



Failed frame cross-member on Eric's truck



Broken Leaf Spring - Roznos Trailer



Let's Go Wait in the Twin Arrows Bar while we wait for the Mobile RV Repair Tech. Cheers!!

Club News - Fish Tales

(Cold) Colorado Fly Fishing!!

A Fish Tale by: David Williams

So, it's tough having lotsa enthusiasm, but little skill. As many of the readers know, living in Southern California and working, along with other responsibilities leaves minimal time for chasing trout. Add to that an expression that simply is foreign to us in the Golden State, the local rivers *have too much water*, well, that is just great.



This leads to a trip to Colorado for a wedding. That means, fortunately, a ½ day local guide in the mountains. After contacting KEN ROBAK from Ken's Anglers out of Littleton, I am all set. Ken will provide all equipment and pick me up from my lodging. After discussing this, we decided I will use my boots and waders and meet him closer to our fishing spot. I get access to private property with access to Tarryall Creek outside Conifer, Colorado. Before the trip I do what all responsible and overly excited neophyte anglers do. I get my out of state license. I practice casting. I check the weather and location. Then I wait. Check the weather again. High of 40 with chance of snow. Yahoo. We are expected to be the 1st anglers on the property this year. Let's see how it goes.

Finally the morning of the trip. 13 degrees Fahrenheit with wind. No wonder we were the 1st anglers on the property. People in Colorado have the good sense to stay out of the water when you have to break through the ice to get to the river. I learned about having to de-ice the line and having the reel freeze. I also learned that trout get picky when it's cold. After two nice brown trout we moved to an area of public land below a dam and waterfall. Two very nice cutthroat in the 14-16 inch range and howling wind. I was ready to pack it up and head to warmer activities before a fire until I hit the second and bigger of the cutthroats. That's when I decided, maybe being able to feel one's toes is a little overrated. After all, as Ken the guide kept saying, "if there is one fish there, there ought to be another."

Frozen, tired and satisfied, finally I had to pack it up and go to the wedding. I don't think I need to explain what was more fun.

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On April 29, we celebrated Fishmas, or the traditional opening day of trout fishing season! The last Saturday in April has long been known as opening day for trout season, even though so many places are open year-round. Still it's a time of year to celebrate and we hope you get out on the water to enjoy the sport we love!

We know our members are out there fishing! Please share your stories. Our readers truly enjoy reading your Fish Tales. Guidance and instructions for submitting **YOUR** Fish Tale may be found below.

Happy Fishmas 2023!!

Wanted! Your Fish Tales!!

Have you been fishing lately?? Please share your story with our membership! Our readers enjoy your fishing exploits!!

Your tales don't need to be novels, or even short stories. A paragraph or two would suffice. Photos are great (as the old saying goes, "they are worth a thousand words")! Don't worry about the formatting or arranging. Just send what you've got! Your newsletter staff will handle the polishing!! Your Fish Tales are always greatly appreciated!

Please send your Fish Tale submittals to your 2023 Newsletter Editor, Terry Roznos at:

taronos@verizon.net

Thank you!

2023 Club Outings

Date	Destination	Streamkeeper
February 11	Women's On The River Outing (Classroom Session) Long Beach Casting Club (Clubhouse)	Kathy Kim
February 18-19 (Cancelled)	Lower Owens (Mentor Outing)	Doug Jones
February 25-26 (Cancelled)	Lower Owens (Women's On The River Outing)	Kathy Kim
March 12-14	Pyramid Lake (Nevada)	Paul Nakamura
March 18-19 (Cancelled)	Lower Owens (Mentor Outing)	Doug Jones
March 26-29	San Juan River (New Mexico)	Brian Mayer
April 13 (Cancelled)	Lake Henshaw Carp Throwdown	Mike Peters
TBA (May/June) (Cancelled)	Lee's Ferry (Arizona)	Melinda Burns
July 14-17	Hot Creek Ranch	John Williams
August 6-13	Yellowstone National Park (Montana/Wyoming)	Larry Behm
August 12	Club Picnic - William Mason Regional Park (Irvine)	Terry Roznos
September 25-29	Loa (Utah)	John Williams
October 13-17	Bridgeport	Terry Roznos
October TBA	President's Outing/Kern River	Brian Mayer

Streamkeeper Contact Info (email and phone numbers) may be found in the Club Directory on the FFCOC Website.

Note: Contact our Club Outings Director, Mike Peters, with your Club Outing suggestions or proposal. There are no Outings scheduled for November or December. Let's fill up our 2023 Club Outings Schedule!!!

2023 Outings - Hot Creek Ranch



1. The Outing is FULL for 2023 by adding the entire waiting list from 2022.
2. If you wish to add your name to the 2023 waiting list, please text John Williams at 951-236-0862.
3. If an opening happens, and you are on the 2023 waiting list, you will be contacted. If not, you will be automatically added to the 2024 openings.

Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Hot Creek Ranch (Con't)

Hot Creek Cabin Assignments

Our Treasurer will be out enjoying fishing in Montana earlier this year so the full amount of monies \$487 are due for Hot Creek Outing by May 15, 2023. Make payments to F.F.C.O.C. Post Office Box 23005 Santa Ana, California 92711-3005, any time after that they will have to be paid by credit card and the cost goes up by \$20 to cover credit card fees. NO EXCEPTIONS.

- 1 Peter Freeman
Don Tayenaka
- 2 Jim Moore
Cheryl Moore
- 3 Dennis Richards
Art Gaza
- 4 Bri Buchko
Karen Vaillancourt
Marsha Wattel
Chris Nicosia
- 5 Len Scarpace
John Williams
- 6 Scot Lewis
Jim Edwards
Andrew Sprowl
- 7 Joe Villa
Debbie Blair/Villa
Jacob Villa
Julie Korak
- 8 Joe Hernandez
Daughter ?
- 9 Bob ? (Can't remember your last name)
Dale Fairchild

2023 Outings - Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park - Northeast Corner

August 6-13, 2023

Deadline: Sign ups **CLOSED** on March 30, 2023

There is room for one more angler!
Please contact Larry if interested.

Overview:

The storied streams that fill flyfishing lore - Slough and Soda Butte Creeks, Lamar and Yellowstone Rivers and their tributaries will be reaching peak fishing in August. Come experience the Northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park after being closed for a year due to flooding in 2022. Most of the fishing will be wading. We will have guides for the first few days, then fish on our own the second half of the week. Many spots are a few hundred yards from a parked car. For the adventurous, some wonderful spots will require hiking a few miles at 9,000 feet. We will adjust the itinerary to suit attendees.

Fish in the Park have a long winter and short summer. So, they readily feed on large flies and especially hoppers in August. You can expect to be pushed out of the river when a bull bison decides it is time to drink or cross. It is all part of what makes the Park so special. I have caught 25" cutthroats and 8" brook trout with equal joy in this unique and beautiful place. I have interrupted fishing many times to photograph bison, bears, goats, elk, eagles, otters, fishers, and other animals that are hard to see anywhere else. Experience Yellowstone across many facets on this trip.

Guides:

We will use Yellowstone River Guides for three days. They accommodate both float and wading. The group will decide how much of each.

Lodging:

We will stay in rental house in Gardiner, MT. You will leave early each morning to beat traffic through the entrance gate and return whenever we choose. Some nice hatches happen at sunset (about 8:45pm in August.)

Group Size:

Group is limited to the first 5 people.

Meals:

We will prepare breakfast at the house each day. Box lunches will be catered in the day before. Dinner will be a local restaurant on guide days and catered on self-guided days.

Transportation:

You are responsible of booking your own transportation to Bozeman, MT (airport code BZN).

We will use rental cars to move from Bozeman to Gardiner and around the Park during the week.

Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Yellowstone

Itinerary: (tentative depending on conditions and members' interests)

Sunday 8/6 - drive from Bozeman to Gardiner and check-in to rental house.

Monday 7th to Wednesday 9th - Guide with YRO, either float on Yellowstone River or wade streams in Park.

Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th - Wading on our own in the Park.

Sunday 8/13 - Drive to Bozeman airport and Fly out.

Estimated Costs per person:

Estimate Total: \$3,200

Gear:

Rods - 5wt or 6wt work well. I prefer 6wt because the mountain winds can be strong. A 3wt will occasionally be nice for a delicate dry fly presentation but not essential.

Waders - the water will be cold, and the air might be too.

Streamkeeper:

Larry Behm

Background:

I have been visiting Yellowstone National Park since the 1960s and fishing in it since the 1970s. I have fished most of the rivers, a few of the lakes, and hiked many trails. I am not a guide, but I'm happy to share what I know about getting around and finding fish in the Park.

I plan to coordinate this trip based on what the attendees want. There are many ways to approach fishing in the Park and we will match these to everyone's needs.

Some of the best fishing will be at the end of 2-3 mile hike. If you want the best experience, start walking to prepare yourself for the altitude and terrain.

I find the Greater Yellowstone Area to be a place of awe in fullest sense of the word. It is a spiritual home for me, just as it was for earlier native inhabitants. I hope to share that special feeling and sense of place with fellow anglers.



2023 Outings- Fly Fishing Southern Utah

Trip Full

Fly Fishing Southern Utah

Trip Full

September 25-29, 2023

Stream Keeper John Williams 951-236-0862



The area of Southern Utah we are going has four mountains that surround it and has numerous lakes and streams.

I have fished the area in the spring, summer, and fall; I have found the most productive time is in the fall

Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Fly Fishing Southern Utah (Con't)

Where We Are Going:

Loa Utah Home of the **Quiet Fly Fisher** and is located in a beautiful valley at 7064" elevation, which hosts a few small towns like Loa, Lyman, Bicknell and Torrey. This is farming and livestock country and is surrounded by mountain ranges of which we will be fishing. There are National Parks near by that offer spectacular scenery, Bryce Canyon to the South West and Capitol Reef to the East, Fish Lake National Forest to the North West along with Boulder Mountain with an elevation of 11,317 which provides many fishing locations, and spectacular views.

Guide Contact Information:

Our head guide in **Loa, Utah** is **Mike James** owner of the **Quiet Fly Fisher** their address is 200 N. Main Street Loa, Utah 84747 Contact Phone Number is 435-616-2319.

Weather & Clothing:

We will be lodging at approx. 7,000' elevation. Nights are cold and days are warm usually, I have experienced rain, snow, hail, and hot and cold days. Bring clothing you can put on in layers that wick moisture, nothing more uncomfortable than moisture under your clothing, which either keeps you hot and sweaty or cold and sweaty. Bring a lightweight rain jacket. Most days you will be wearing your waders but on hot day I wet wade with light shirt nylon pants and my wading boots on, don't forget the neoprene booties if wet wading. Be flexible, bring both cold and warm weather gear and adjust as needed. Weather at high altitude can change rapidly be prepared. The weather will not stop your guide from fishing unless it is dangerous and or access is limited. They will advise if there is a problem. Mother nature sets the parameters we must always be aware of our surroundings and climate.

Lodging:

There are many options in the region of Loa, Utah both in town and adjoining hamlets like Lyman and Bicknell. I would suggest The Mill Cabins 1500 S. HWY 24 Lyman, Utah (435) 491-0426 as a wonderful place with individual cabins that can sleep two and are very reasonably priced, **Bruce & Dana Chappell** are the owners. In Loa the Snuggle Inn is pricy but luxurious by small town standards. In Bicknell the Sunglow Motel and Restaurant is comfortable and reasonably priced. Lodging in these areas can be limited so make your lodging reservation early; I do not take responsibility for making anyone's lodging reservations due to last minute cancelations and family emergencies. I recommend you book you're lodging early, as lodging will be harder to find closer to the trip dates. Many travelers hit the road after school is in session and before winter.

Physical Demands:

Where we are lodging at 6500' to 7,000' elevation we can be fishing and hiking at as high as 11,000'. If you have problems at altitude let the guide and streamkeeper know in advance of our trip. Most fishing locations involve some hiking and wading. I would suggest arriving a couple of days early to acclimate to 7,000' not hiking hard and drinking plenty of water, it easy to dehydrate in higher elevations, the guide has water and soft drinks along in their vehicles so ask for the water.

Gear:

Rods & Lines. The entire trip can be done with a 9-foot 5-weight rod and a floating line and a sinking line, one rod is all you need.

Waders. Good pair of breathable waders is required in most situations.

Boots. Wading boots are part of the package. No restrictions on felt as yet.

Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Fly Fishing Southern Utah (Con't)

Wading Staff. Many of us find having a wading staff necessary for stability in slippery or rocky situations, or just find a long stick, don't fall, the rocks are unforgiving.

Terminal Tackle. I use a 9 foot 5x leader and have along 2,3,4,5,6x tippet. I as well bring an assortment of lead free shot to use as needed if nymphing.

Flies. We will be fishing many lakes and a few streams and possibly a couple of rivers. I carry dries, nymphs and streamers but the guide will provide you with flies. If the guide suggests a fly or gives you a fly use it with the full understanding you will catch fish, they are quite experienced on these waters. If you are like me I bring many more flies than I will ever use. I have hoppers, caddis, mayflies, and damselflies in adult and nymph stages. I find a callibaetis mayfly nymph very useful in the lakes. Bring what you own and the fly shop offers all the working patterns you will be using if you want to purchase some.

First Aid Kit: I carry a basic first aid kit in my tote bag for simple emergencies, minor cuts and abrasions.

Transportation:

From L.A. Southern California is a 9 1/2-hour drive including gas stops and a lunch stop to Loa, Utah. Sharing a ride is more fun to get to know you friend or partner better and listen to each other experiences along the way. When in Loa the guides provide the transportation to and from the days fishing locations. Salt Lake City is approximately 3 hours away from Loa and is serviced by many airlines and rental car companies.

Float Tubing:

There will be opportunities to float tube in the area if you so desire. **The Quiet Fly Fisher** in Loa can provide you with a float tube if they are guiding you. If you wish the comfort of your own float tube please feel free to bring yours.

Food:

In Utah many of their dinning locations close on Sunday, it is best to call ahead or ask you guide where and what is open, most areas have a couple options on Sunday but it is best to inquire. Guides provide lunch during the days guiding. Many of us BBQ at the Mill Cabins for dinner, to curb the costs of eating out every meal, the grocery in the town of Loa is open Mon.- Sat. Breakfast is your choice of eating at a local restaurant or at your lodging, the guide provides lunch the days you are fishing.

Libations:

You are responsible for any liquor you wish to purchase either bought from the local Liquor store in Bicknell or for beer (3.2) in some of the gas stations, or bring from home. BYOB.

Costs and Payment:

The guide requires a Non-refundable \$200 deposit to secure your reservation and the final payment is due upon completion of your final day.

Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Fly Fishing Southern Utah (Con't)

Tipping:

It is customary to tip the guide daily; I tip \$50 per day of guiding at the end of the day. Tipping is not based on your ability or the number of fish caught, but for good service and the ability of the guide to lead you doing everything in their ability to make the experience enjoyable. Fish are a bonus. I have negotiated quite reasonable rates for the group of six and feel a percentage tip is quite unfair to the guide considering the extreme road conditions, locations and wear and tear on their vehicles. These extreme road conditions keep most of your competition for fish away.

Fishing License:

Utah state fishing license can be obtained on line prior to your trip, which is the easiest. Licenses can be purchased in Loa at the local store Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. Yearly licenses last from the date you purchase them for a complete calendar year.

Emergency Services:

Bicknell near Lyman has a clinic available for minor emergencies.

A deposit of \$200 Non Refundable is sent to John Williams to hold your spot and sent then forwarded to the guide. The total cost of the trip is \$1,250 for five days of guiding. The staff of The Quiet Fly Fisher of Loa Utah will guide us.

John Williams Cell 951-236-0862 Streamkeeper

2023 Outings - Bridgeport

Registration is
Now Open!

FFCOC Bridgeport Outing 2023

October 13 - 17

Registration is
Now Open!



Dates: October 13-17. Arrive on a Friday (10/13), and Depart on a Tuesday (10/17). Three full days of fishing the Bridgeport area (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday)! [At the request of last year's attendees, this Outing has moved to October!](#)

Waters: There are numerous great fishing opportunities in the area; including stream fishing the East Walker River, West Walker River, Virginia Creek, Buckeye Creek, Robinson Creek, and more. Stillwater fishing on Bridgeport Reservoir, Kirman Lake, Lundy Lake, the Upper or Lower Twin Lakes, or on the Virginia Lakes. Private waters are also available for a fee (Sceirine Ranch, Nevada).

Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Bridgeport (Con't)

Fishing: Independent fishing format. Members disperse to their desired fishing locations in the morning (as singles, or buddy up). Guided fishing is also available; Ken's Sporting Goods in Bridgeport has a list of recommended local guides for hire to put you on fish! Then after a day's fishing, the group will rendezvous at the evening campfire at our host Lodge to discuss the day's fishing, and plans for the next day.

Lodging: Willow Springs Motel and RV Park ([Willow Springs Resort, Bridgeport, California](#)), approximately 5 miles south of Bridgeport off Hwy 395, is our home base for the outing. Standard single rooms (queen bed), Kitchenette rooms (one queen and one double bed) for those who wish to buddy up and share a room/expenses, and 30A full hook-up RV sites are available for your lodging choices.



Standard Single Rooms are \$150/night. The Standard Room includes: One queen bed, Private Bathroom, Wifi and Satellite TV, Heating and Air Conditioning, Mini refrigerator, Microwave, and Coffee maker.



Kitchenette Rooms are \$200/night. Kitchenette Rooms include: One queen bed, One double bed, Private Bathroom, Wifi and Satellite TV, Heating and Air Conditioning, Coffee maker and Toaster, Microwave, Mini refrigerator, Stove top range, and Silverware/dinnerware/cookware.



RV sites are \$55/night. RV Sites have Full Hook Ups; 30A Electrical, Water, and Sewer connections. [This is the only FFCOC Outing that offers a RV lodging option! Come on you RVers, let's meet in Bridgeport!!](#)

Responsibilities: Outing attendees are responsible for transportation, lodging and meals. Convenient dining (breakfast, lunch or dinner) is available across the street at Virginia Creek Settlement (this is a gem of a restaurant), or in town. Bring your favorite trout fishing gear!

Registration Instructions: [This is a new process for 2023.](#) Please make your lodging reservations and payment directly to Willow Springs Resort. You may make your lodging reservations using the Willow Springs website ([Willow Springs Resort](#)), or use the link provided on the Bridgeport Outing Calendar Event ([Bridgeport Outing - Lodging Reservations and Registration HERE](#)). When you have secured a confirmed lodging reservation, please click on the Register Now button on the Calendar Event to confirm your attendance.

Lodging availability status will be provided in each Club Newsletter. Book early, as rooms will likely fill as we get closer to the out as Fall anglers and hunters will be booking these rooms.

Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Bridgeport (Con't)

Current Lodging Availability (Oct 13 - 17 stays):



Room Availability: Green = Avail, Red = Booked

RV Site Availability: Green = Avail, Red = Booked

Note: Streamkeeper is in RV Site 11

Sounds like an Outing for you? Go ahead and book your lodging with Willow Springs Resort. Please contact your Streamkeeper with your questions.

Thank you!!!

Streamkeeper Contact Info:

Terry Roznos
(562) 322-4790 (cell)
tarnoznos@verizon.net



Continued, next page →

2023 Outings - Bridgeport (Con't)

Downtown Bridgeport

If you haven't checked it out, there is now streaming video from the light pole outside Ken's Sporting Goods courtesy of the Fishin' Mission Foundation.

[Web Cam Provided by The Fishin' Mission Foundation](#)

Willow Springs is now open for business and your reservations!!



Southwest Council FFI– News & Events



This Saturday!

QUESTION: What is FLYBUY?

ANSWER:

Part fishing tackle garage sale, part fly-fishing carnival,
great food and camaraderie!

This Saturday!

GENERAL INFORMATION

- When: Saturday, May 6
- Doors open: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Where: Long Beach Casting Club, 5201 E. 7th St. Long Beach, CA 90808
- Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/CAnBRL9d4rGQVATp8>

TICKETS/ADMISSION:

- ADULTS: \$25 - includes lunch & drink.
- UNDER 16, Vets and Cfr participants are free.
- NEW TO FLY FISHING: \$15* * Includes lunch and a FREE fly casting lesson to get you started
- BRING/DONATE a new or lightly used item of \$40 retail value and get in FREE!

ACTIVITIES

- Fly Tying demonstrations all day
- Raffles
- Silent Auctions
- Flies for Sale
- Used Equipment Sale
- Casting Lessons and Games
- Vendors
- Women's and Youth Activities
- The largest Fly Fishing Garage Sale on the West Coast

Continued, next page →

Southwest Council FFI– News & Events



FLY TYING CLASSES

- Fourteen of Southern California's best fly tiers -- including three Buszek Award recipients -- will be on hand to demonstrate their fresh and saltwater fish-catching fly patterns and techniques.
- Fly patterns will range from Eastern Sierra trout, bass bugs to surf fishing, local ocean breakwaters and offshore big game.

FREE FLY TYING FOR CHILDREN

- We will have tiers available to teach kids to tie their first fly.

CASTING LESSONS AND CASTING GAMES

- Private casting lessons (\$1 per minute with a 20-minute minimum) with a money-back GUARANTEE. Learn something new or pay nothing!
- Practice course for FFI Levels of Recognition: Bronze, Silver & Gold
- Local top level FFI Certified Casting Instructors will be on hand.
- All net proceeds support SWC programs in Conservation, Youth and Women Connect.

WEBPAGE FOR FLYBUY: <https://www.swcffi.org/flybuy>



Southwest Council FFI– News & Events

Riptide Rendezvous



Riptide Rendezvous is Back for 2023!

After three years of waiting for COVID-related issues to die down, we are happy to announce that Riptide Rendezvous will be back in 2023!

We're adopting an "all virtual" format this time around, which allows us to greatly expand both the time window and the geographic area covered by the event. You can fish any time from May 27, 2023 thru June 23, 2023, and anywhere from the northern border of Santa Barbara County to the Mexican border (as long as it's legal!)

One of the things that makes this possible is our continued use of the iAngler tournament app. All entries will be submitted by the contestants

themselves when they catch a fish. That means you (or one of your fishing buddies) will need to have a smart phone to compete.

RR is still a Catch-and-Release only event, and as before, conventional tackle (spin, bait-casting) fishermen can compete in a separate division. Artificial lures or flies only.

In order to make this work, we are dropping the "one fly" feature in favor of a "use your own fly" format. See the complete rules **HERE:** [Southwest Council FFI - Riptide Rendezvous Home](#).

[Riptide Rendezvous - 2023 | iAnglerTournament](#)



Southwest Council FFI– News & Events

Owens River Cleanup Postponed

RESCHEDULED: OWENS RIVER CLEAN UP

NEW DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Due to the potential for dangerously high river water flows from snowmelt runoff, the 9th Annual Owens River Clean Up is being postponed to Saturday, November 4, 2023. Your safety is the utmost priority. It is not appropriate to hold the event in April.

Chris Leonard, event organizer, will still gladly take any swag for the raffle for the event between now and then.

See you the first Saturday of November at the Pleasant Valley Campground! Water flows and air temps the start of November should be perfect for a weekend of cleaning up the river, and recreating in Bishop!

9th Annual Owens River Clean Up

Bishop, California



FFI Women Connect Launches Quarterly Newsletter

The Connection



New for 2023, *The Connection* is the official quarterly newsletter of FFI Women Connect. FFI Women Connect encourages female leadership in FFI Clubs and the fly fishing industry by creating a platform where women can develop fly fishing skills, network with other women fly fishers, and come together for fly fishing experiences.

Check out the Spring 2023 issue of *The Connection* on the FFI site here:

[FFIWC Newsletter The Connection Spring2023.pdf \(flyfishersinternational.org\)](#)

Fly Fishers International Website: [Fly Fishers International](#)



Editor Recommended Read: Consider a subscription to the Southwest Council monthly newsletter. It is very well done! You will read about news and events of the SWCFFI, as well as the Club activities for the 21 Clubs in the Region (including the FFCOC). Your newsletter will arrive each month in your Inbox. Subscribe by clicking the link in the box below.

Subscribe to the SWCFFI Newsletter > Click Below

[Southwest Council Fly Fishers International \(list-manage.com\)](#)



Fishing News



**Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power**

We are slowly transitioning into spring and with that, the fishing season. LADWP encourages everyone traveling to the Eastern Sierra to please adhere to all road closure signs. Extreme winter storms have resulted in hazardous conditions in local waterways. Soft, melting snow and ice can pose a serious danger. Please respect all warning signs, they are there for your safety!

You may check out the LADWP website below for the latest updates, current conditions, area closures and status before heading up to your favorite “local” fishing hole. Stay safe!

<https://ladwpeasternsierra.com/>

Earth Day hope: The sweet, sweet West Fork run clear



If there's one waterway that encompasses the struggles of nature in this post-modern age, it's the West Fork of the San Gabriel. While it provides a respite from our metropolis, as a place to learn and practice fly fishing, ride a bike as far up the canyon as you can, or just hang out wondering what the hatch is, you can feel the magic, a renewal that goes deeper than natural beauty, radiating from the land itself.

I used to take my now-grown son here, pulling him along on his inlines behind my old bike. I've had my heart soar with uplift current-riding red tail hawks, had it broken by endless amounts of trash left by the careless, had it lifted again by volunteers who worked tirelessly to save the remaining fish after the devastating Bobcat Fire. This is the place I come to mend my broken heart, a place to gather strength and hope for the future.

So on this Earth Day, I offer a video from the intrepid Steve Kuchensky shot on April 15. Steve reports water temperature was 56 degrees. The silt is gone; the mud is gone and that beautiful water flows like no other! Meanwhile, CJ Vapenik, talked with an angler who caught a trout on a dry. We love to stretch the truth on the water, but this truth is gold. A guy caught a fish on a dry while he was wading on the West Fork in 2023!

Now that makes my Earth Day complete.

See you on the water, Jim Burns (SWCFFI Communications Director)

From his *lariverflyfishing* Blog; <https://lariverflyfishing.blog/>

West Fork Video (April 15); <https://videopress.com/v/qFUElySU>

Note: The West Fork Road, or National Forest System Road No. 2N25, will be temporarily closed to all recreationists on weekdays only through 2023; it is open on weekends. Verify before heading up.

The Spirit of Dame Berners - Saltwater Fishing

By Larry Behm



This month we are consider saltwater fishing. In Orange County, saltwater presents the biggest opportunity to fish without long drives. We've asked Scott Brooke to explain some of the considerations for saltwater success.

Scott says, "salt is in my DNA, I have had a fishing rod in my hand for as long as I can remember." He grew up in Marin County and fished the streams that fed San Francisco Bay. He caught slivers, stripers, flounders, sharks, perch, big rays, and bullheads which he traded for bait. In his twenties and early thirties, he spent a lot of time on the meat boats catching big kings, lings, stripers, and crabbing. He got into fly fishing in his mid-thirties. He started steelhead fishing on the Russian River.

How should we think about saltwater coming from a freshwater background?

Scott: It is important to recognize when you fish in the ocean you have 20 different species of fish throughout the year. If you are accustomed to freshwater fishing, you usually target only two or three different species. For the ocean, you need to understand what fish are around.

To start fishing from the beach, recognize that we have 840 miles of coast in California. So, the easiest thing is to concentrate on one species, and I would say around here it would be the barred perch.

Learn how to read the water. There is a lot of stuff online, if you just Google fishing barred perch with a fly rod, you'll get 15 different cool lessons on how to read water and fish for Bard perch.

Using a stripping basket as a must. Line control is very important because you got seaweed and stuff in the water and the surf will wrap the line around your ankles. On a boat, a laundry basket or stripping basket is very helpful, so the line doesn't get snagged on a cleat, handle, or something.

If It's a rough day wait, you want a calmer day to learn.

Casting is very important. Learning to double haul is probably one of the most important things you need to do well when you're fishing salt water.

So how about the equipment, what kind of equipment do I need?

Scott: Everything from a 6 wt. to a 12 wt., depending on the species you are pursuing. A 6 wt. is OK when you're fishing for barred perch, because a 2 lbs. Barred perch is a nice fish.

Fly fishing equipment is expensive, so I have a rule of thumb. Buy expensive rods and cheaper reels for trout fishing. Buy expensive reels and cheaper rods for saltwater fishing. When you're fighting a big fish and it takes a run you need a good reel.

Continued, next page →

Fly Fishing Educational Series (Con't)

The other reason we have so many different rods because of the Different sized flies that we are throwing. If you're fishing with smaller flies, you can use a 6 or 7 wt. fishing for Bonita, Barracuda, and yellowtail, you throw a bigger fly, so you need a bigger rod.

Most of the time when I'm fishing for those larger fish. I have two rods hooked up. One, with a floating line and then one with a sinking line so. The sinking line lets you fish down where the fish are feeding, say to 45 to 50 feet.

You need a reel with a good drag. I like to use a reel that I can personally fix. If I'm going to Mexico, Bahamas, or some other remote place, I carry parts. Some of the high-end new reels don't allow self-repair. I've had very expensive reels freeze up on me. I like to use Lampson because I can rebuild it back in the hotel room.

Let's talk about those lines. When would you use a floating line versus a sinking line?

Scott: If you have fish on the surface, making a 10-foot cast right along the wave line can catch perch. If you have a bait-ball in front of you, a floating line with a sinking fly would work well. You can use poppers on the surface in Mexico. If I can see fish in the surf, I pull a popper through the foam for Gavia and Rooster Fish and such. Some people use an indicator with weighted flies.

So, if you don't see fish on the surface, then you go to the sinking line?

Scott: Yes, you're going to using the sinking line to put the fly at the level the fish are feeding. And be ready for anything, there's always a surprise out there because we have so many species in the ocean. You might use either a floating or sinking line from a boat. The captain may be throwing live bait out into the water to draw fish up to the surface. So, when those fish are really feeding the floating line works.

If I want to fish from a boat or float what should I be thinking about?

Scott: Not all boats are equal, you've got to cast. So I like to go out on a boat with a center console. This gives you a lot of room in the in the front and the stern to make your cast. To shorten the learning curve for somebody new, if they can afford it, get a guide who will teach you a lot about fly selection, type of rod and reel, and how to read how to read the water.

I've heard about how important structure is in salt water. How do you go about finding it?

Scott: Well, a lot of its visible, but then a lot of it also hard to see. If you're in a boat, a fish finder helps a lot, you can read the bottom. It is best to fish the edges of big kelp beds or grass patches which hold fish. Floating structures always seem to hold fish. Heck, I've seen a piece of floating plywood hold a 20-pound Dorado. If you're fishing a harbor, any of the boats, piers, any of that stuff, will hold fish underneath them. It's just like fishing for largemouth bass.

Continued, next page →

Fly Fishing Educational Series (Con't)

At the beaches; you should be looking for troughs. Troughs are where the water is going back out. You should fish the edges.

How about the best time of the year or of the month? How do you figure out the rhythm of the ocean?

Scott: To me, the best time to fish in Southern California is when the grunion are off the beaches, when the grunion are running. I think the grunion start running in April during the full moons, all the way through July and August. Warmer water produces better fishing in Southern California. So, July into November are good times. Starting in November, December, January. I always have a better time on an incoming tide than I do on a not going tide. I search Google for "Saltwater fishing," and it tells me the beach conditions and what fish are hitting.

How else would you suggest to somebody go learn more about fishing saltwater fishing?

Scott: I learned a lot from joining the club. Going to the meetings, seeing the speakers, and going on outings. Your local fly shops are very helpful. While fishing, you can look at somebody's fly box and what they have. If a guy catches a big perch and it's got a little red crab pattern in his mouth you know what to fish.

Saltwater may be a little time consuming, but I'd rather go down and fish the surf in 10 minutes rather than driving 5 hours to the mountains to catch a few trout.

Are there any questions I should have asked but didn't?

Scott: You need to clean rods, reels, and gear when you are done. Salt will rust everything. I polish my rods and guides, keep my lines clean. I wash with water and then lubricate my wheels. Do it faithfully.

Flies That Keep On Giving!

Electric Blue Buzzer

By John Williams

I have been fishing Southern Utah for many years and keep trying different flies on every trip. One that has proven to be very effective on the lakes is what I will share.



Materials:

Hook:	Owner SSW size 8 or 10 or similar
Thread:	Black 8/0
Body:	Blue Holographic Tinsel
Wing Buds:	Yellow Goose Biots
Red Color on Buds:	Red Sharpie Marker
Cement:	Super Glue
Over All Coating:	Thin UV Cure

Instructions:

1. Start the thread behind the eye and run it down into the bend as shown.
2. Attach blue holographic tinsel at the bend and wrap the thread back up to the thorax area.
3. Smear super glue on the hook from the bend to the thorax and wrap the holographic tinsel over the wet super glue and stop at the thorax leaving the excess hanging.
4. Tie in two goose biots by the butts, one on either lower side of the hook shank.
5. Wrap the thread forward building up the thorax and then wrap the holographic tinsel forward over the thorax region.
6. Fold the biots forward and upward and tie off behind the eye, Whip finish and cut your thread now.
7. Touch the base of each Biot at the base with your red marker, the color will bleed in the next steps.
8. Coat the entire fly from base to the head leaving a slight amount of UV cure on the biots and head. A rotary vice works best now as you can rotate the fly so the UV cure doesn't sag drastically. Set the UV with your light.
9. Your ready to go fishing NOW!

Tight Lines All, John

FFCOC Leadership

Mission:

Encourage Angling with Artificial Flies (Fly Fishing)

Encourage Education and Fisheries Conservation, including Habitat and Watershed Conservation

Disseminate to the public the Results of the Club's Efforts

Encourage Youth to Follow Sound Conservation Practices

To **ACHIEVE** this the Club conducts various meetings, events and outings as documented in this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all. If interested, contact one of the Board members or come to one of the Club meetings.

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