

ON THE FLY

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
FLY FISHERS CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY

50 YEARS OF SERVING OUR MEMBERS!



April 2021

Next Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 14

ZOOM, kicks off at 7:00PM

Details on the web:

www.FFCOC.org

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Check out:

Club Forums Updates

The Return of SoCal Saltwater Saturdays

You're All Invited: Southwest Council's Club Management Day

Fishing Regulations Editorial by Chris Leonard

Bridgeport Outing: Now Accepting Reservations

Fish Tales!

Read On!

President's Message

Welcome to April! I never know where my inspiration will come from for this monthly message. Last week when I powered up the cell phone in the morning; I saw a notice from Google Photos, on this day 6 years ago! Ok I bit, and opened the notice. There were the pictures of Janna and me at a park in Pasadena attending an Orvis Fly Fishing 101 class. First time with fly rods in our hands! Our final exercise that day was to execute a pickup and laydown cast to a target of poster board fish laid out on the grass in front of us. With a Velcro surface on our fish targets and a small piece attached to the end of our leaders, we each landed our target fish (see our proud photos - ext page). We were hooked!! A number of weeks later we attended an event at Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing store. There we watched Cheryl Moore tie some flies. As we chatted, she told us about the FFCOC. We attended our first Club meeting in 2015. Ed Engle was presenting that night. We watched him tie these ridiculously small flies and talk about nymphing; way over our heads, but we joined the Club. So here we are today! How did you get started in Fly Fishing? Sounds like a great thread for our website Forum discussions!! Read more about Forums in the article written by Doug Jones in this issue of your newsletter, and go ahead and give it a try! You can't break anything!!



How about some Club news! Vice President Larry Behm is in the process of soliciting vendors for our September Auction. One vendor, Montana Fly Fishers Lodge on the Big Horn, has offered a 2 for 1 Lodging/Fishing outing (normal price is \$1,400/person). This offer is for this season only, as Montana Fly Fishers are looking to sell their Lodge. So, we'll be looking to auction this item in advance of our normal Auction in September (a mini-auction). Practice your Auctria skills and stay tuned for developments...

Doug Jones and Joe Libeu announced the first Casting in the Park event since our Covid stand-down. The event is planned for May 15 at Irvine Regional Park and was limited to 10 participants. The event booked up in less than 24 hours; a waiting list is now being maintained. Additional sessions will need to be planned! More to come...

The Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International has announced the return of its SoCal Saltwater Saturdays for April. See your newsletter for Speaker info, with dates, times, and Zoom connect info. The Southwest Council is also hosting a Club Management Day on April 17; a 2.5 hour Zoom event. All Club members are invited to join in this year; not just Club Presidents and Board Members as the traditional participants. See your newsletter for more info on this event.

On the return to fishing for us all; the dates for the Club Bridgeport Outing have been finalized and signups for this outing are now being accepted. See your newsletter for the Outing info.

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President's Message (Con't)

Speaking of Eastern Sierra fishing, and California fishing in general, the 2021-22 Freshwater and Saltwater Sport Fishing Regulations were released by the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife and were effective on March 1. Chris Leonard, Mammoth Lakes professional guide, offers his perspective on the new regulations in his editorial found in your newsletter.

Have you been fishing lately? There are 4 member submitted Fish Tales in this newsletter; enjoy the read. Remember, share a Fish Tale in the newsletter, or at our April Meeting, and your name will be placed in the fish bowl for the drawing at the end of the meeting for a \$25 Bob Marriott's gift certificate! Cherie Dalton was the winner of the drawing at our March meeting!

I am looking forward to seeing you (virtually) at our April 14 meeting. Our speaker will be expert angler Jason Randall with his presentation *When All Else Fails - Tactics For Catching Trout On Slow Days*. I'm sure we'll come away from the meeting with tips and techniques to apply on our next trip out. It's always great talking about, and hearing stories of fishing! See you then!!

Terry



April Speaker



Jason Randall

When All Else Fails – *Tactics for Catching Trout on Slow Days*

Jason Randall's presentation will help you the next time the fishing is tough. Most of us have had one of those days when nothing seems to work. When you've tried everything you can think of and you end up staring into your fly box for the tenth time that day looking for the magical answer?

The answer to catching fish on "slow" days lies not in a single fly selection. **Putting fish into your net lies in the sum of a lot of little adjustments.** Understanding the "why" of slow days offers insight on "how" to adapt as an angler. Jason's website: <https://jrflyfishing.com/>

Jason was born in Morris, Illinois. His father introduced him to fishing, hunting and camping and his growing love of the outdoors led Jason to become an Eagle Scout when he was just 15. He attended veterinary school at the University of Illinois, served in the Army and then moved to Woodstock to start his practice. He is not only a veterinarian, but a veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine. He is also a member of the *World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association* and the *Society for Freshwater Science*.

Jason picked up a fly rod in 1983, but with no guidance or instruction, became frustrated with fly fishing and casting and didn't handle a fly rod again for almost a decade. It was, during a Colorado vacation, that a friend suggested they go fly fishing. Fortunately, they hired a guide who gave them casting instructions and solid, accurate advice. After these brief, though valuable lessons, Jason proceeded to catch several native trout and this experience, says Jason, hooked him on fly fishing for life.

For the last twelve years, he has been an outdoor writer with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines.

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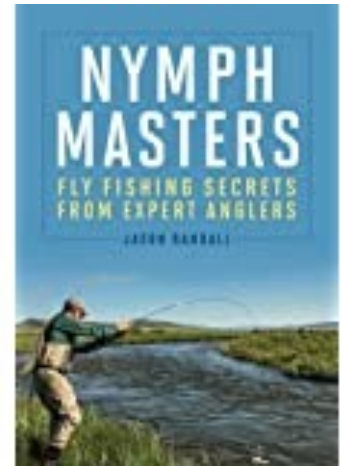
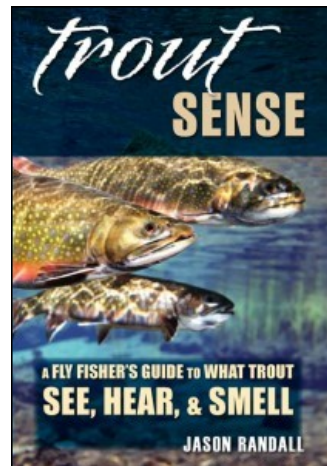
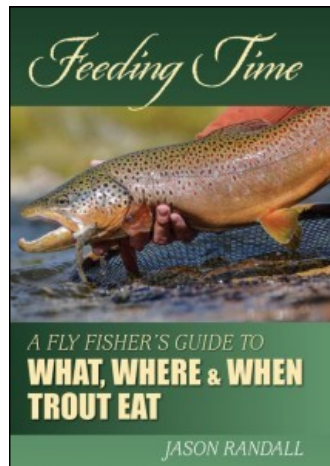
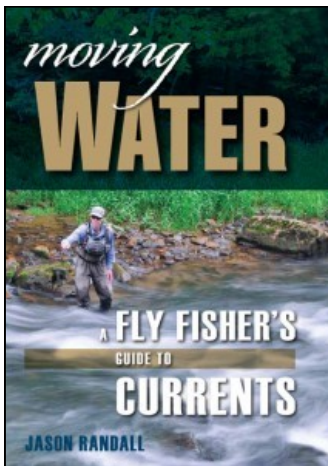
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April Speaker (Con't)

His books:

- ***Moving Water: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Currents***, (released in 2012) studies the effect of current on trout, their prey species and presentation, where vertical layers of current create drag and requires adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.
- ***Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat***, (released in August 2013) focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout's feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.
- ***Trout Sense; A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell*** offers anglers an opportunity to know more about the quarry sought.
- ***Nymph Masters: Fly Fishing Secrets from Expert Anglers***, combining secrets, tips and hints from some of the top nymph fishermen in the sport.

Temple Fork Outfitters (TFO) named Jason to their National Advisory Team to develop a new and innovative nymph fishing rod. In October, 2017 the 'Drift Rod' was released to wide acclaim as the first truly convertible rod, changing in length from 9 to 12 feet.



2021 Speakers

MONTHLY SPEAKER PROGRAM

January	Landon Mayer	Mastering the Short Game	1/13/21
February	Tony Reinhardt	Advanced Drift Boat Techniques	2/10/21
March	Heather Dyer	Conservation in San Bernardino NF	3/10/21
April	Jason Randall	When All Else Fails - Tactics for Catching Trout on Slow Days	4/14/21
May	Skip Morris	Make Dry Fly and Emergers work	5/12/21
June	Buhler Brothers (Ryan and Rob)	Streamer Fishing for Big Fish in So Cal	6/9/21
July	Dave Smith	Euro Nymphing Local Waters	7/7/21
August	Picnic		8/11/21
September	Auction		9/8/21
October	Charles Jardine	UK Fishing	10/13/21
November	Karlie Rowland	Fishing Henry's Fork, Idaho	11/10/21
December	TBD		12/8/21

Announcements & News

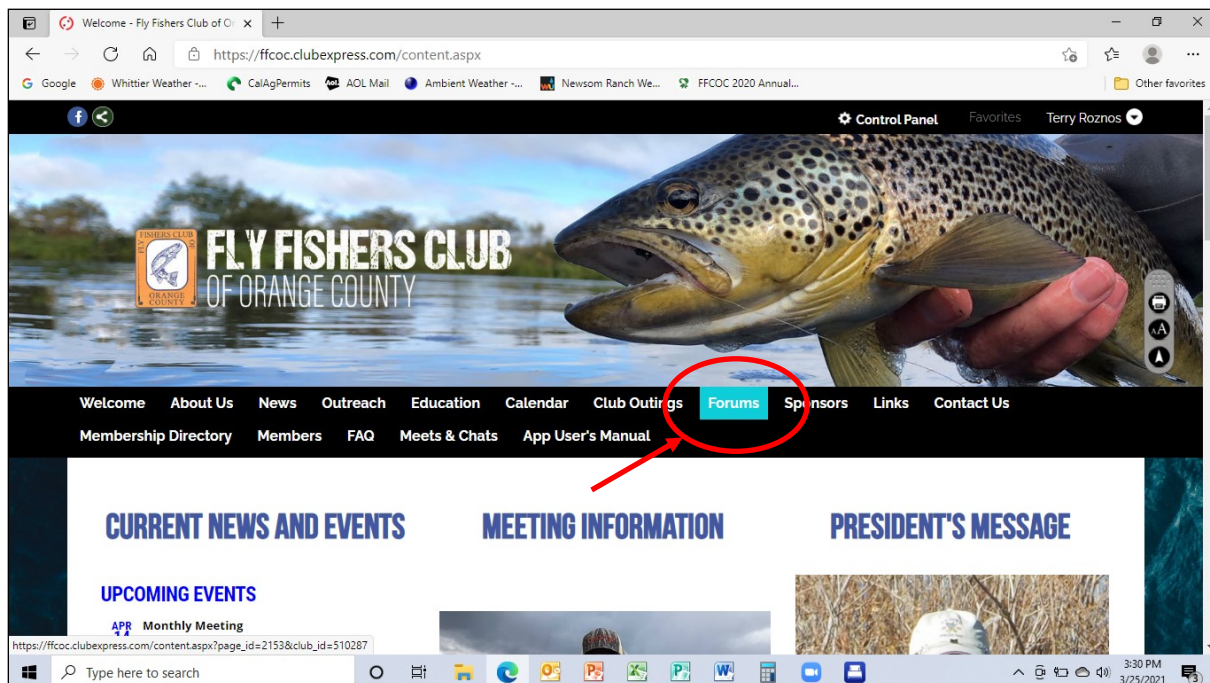
FORUMS FORUMS FORUMS:

Our Club successfully kicked off three new FORUMS in February - ***Beachcombers/ Fly Fishing, Montana and Trip Planning***. What are Club Members chatting about on the FORUMS?

- How to get started with Euro-Nymphing
- Where to fish in Eastern Wisconsin and success with smallmouth, muskie and trout
- Patterns for tying Iris Caddis patterns
- Setting times to meet and fish the surf
- How to better see fish in the surf
- Experiences chasing corbina in our own backyard
- Sharing online resources for beach fishing with light-line tackle
- Inquiry about fishing the Upper Colombia River

Get involved and chat with fellow Club Members about these and other issues and ideas. If you want to start a FORUM on a specific activity contact Doug Jones and he can set one up.

As an incentive to encourage more participation at the next general meeting we will announce the winner of a random drawing of names of everyone who posted on a FORUM (excluding Board Members) with the winner receiving a fabulous prize.



Announcements & News (Con't)

The Return of SoCal Saltwater Saturdays in April :



SPECIAL DONATION DRAWINGS LINKED TO THIS EVENT!

\$5.00 DONATION GETS YOU ONE CHANCE TO WIN SNOWBEE PRIZES

BUY AS MANY TICKETS AS YOU LIKE!

Donation: <https://www.swcffi.org/donate>

With the largest body of water at our doorstep, and literally year round fishing available, the Southwest Council brings you SoCal Saltwater Saturdays. This series will explore the many opportunities that await a fly angler with near and off-shore possibilities. In bringing together experts from three different locales and three different access methods, we will show you everything you need to know, what equipment is needed, and various costs involved.

WANT TO SEE YOUR BACKING?

Join us April 3, 10 & 24 at 10 a.m. via Zoom as your host, Marshall Bissett interviews:

APRIL 3 – MICHELLE BOWMAN

PADDLE BOARD TECHNIQUES FOR INSHORE FLY FISHING

Michelle Bowman kicks off our Saltwater Saturdays by sharing her craft of fly fishing from a standup paddleboard (SUP). She'll take us from the warm flats to the cold deep water kelp beds to teach us the ins and outs of sneaking up on fish using this stealth mode of fishing. You can leave the boat keys at home but don't forget your paddle!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87917888747>

APRIL 10 – CONWAY BOWMAN




FLY FISHING IN BAYS AND HARBORS

Fly fishing the bays of Southern California is a unique experience that will hone any fly fisherman casting and angling skills. Learn the techniques for successfully catching spotted bay bass, halibut, corvina, bonito and barracuda plus understanding tides, moon phase as well as choosing the correct fly lines and most productive flies. This is a "must tune-in" for fly anglers of all levels.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87309795770>

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Announcements & News (Con't)

<p>SOCAL SALTWATER SATURDAYS APRIL 3, 10 & 24 10AM PACIFIC TIME</p> <p>FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL Southwest Council</p> <p>THIS EVENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM Snowbee EST 1978</p>	<p>APRIL 3 MICHELLE BOWMAN PADDLE BOARD TECHNIQUES FOR INSHORE FLY FISHING</p> 	<p>APRIL 10 CONWAY BOWMAN FLY FISHING IN BAYS AND HARBORS</p> 	<p>APRIL 24 GRAHAM P. DAY OUTFITTING AND USING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT FOR BAYS, HARBORS AND INSHORE FLY FISHING</p> 
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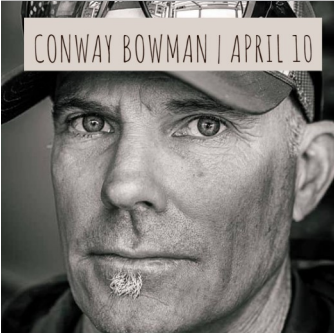


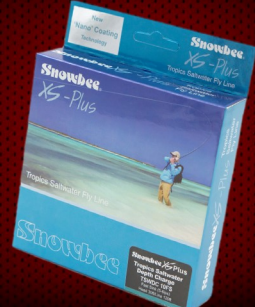
APRIL 24 – GRAHAM P. DAY

OUTFITTING AND USING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT FOR BAYS, HARBORS, AND IN-SHORE FLY FISHING

Inshore guide and Scout Inflatables pro staff Graham P. Day discusses the possibilities unlocked by fly fishing from personal watercraft. He will share an overview of tools and techniques that can be used to make the most of our bays along the Southern California coastline.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82746288933>

Join us for any or all of the programs and have those questions ready. We want YOU to be able to enjoy this fishery that is right at our doorsteps. Join Our Community on the lower right side of the page to be added to our subscriber list. <https://www.swcffi.org/>

<p>SOCAL SALTWATER SATURDAYS APRIL 3, 10 & 24 10AM PACIFIC TIME</p> <p>Snowbee EST 1978</p>	<p>FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL Southwest Council</p> <p>MICHELLE BOWMAN APRIL 3</p> 	<p>SWCFFI SOCAL SALTWATER SATURDAYS</p> <p>Snowbee</p> <p>DRAWINGS & GIVE-A-WAYS!</p>	
<p>CONWAY BOWMAN APRIL 10</p> 	<p>GRAHAM P. DAY APRIL 24</p> 	<p>SALTWATER FLY WALLET, LARGE</p> 	

Announcements & News (Con't)



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL **Southwest Council**

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN SWCFFI'S CLUB MANAGEMENT DAY!

DATE: SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021 | 10:00am – 12:30pm

RSVP BY APRIL 14, 2021: secretary@swcffi.org

WE PREFER you RSVP in advance, but if you are joining last minute, the Meeting ID is as follows:
Zoom Meeting ID: 829 9357 6416 | Passcode: 804702

Are you a BOD member or maybe just a valuable volunteer at your club and would love to hang out, learn and even SHARE information in regard to your role with your fly fishing club for:

- INSPIRATION? NEW IDEAS? GETTING REINVIGORATED?
- LEADING A CLUB?
- FUNDRAISING?
- SETTING UP EVENTS?
- TEACHING SKILLS TO CLUB MEMBERS (Fly tying, casting, education)
- COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA?
- START OR CHAMPION WOMENS PROGRAMS?
- MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS?
- FIGURING OUT HOW TO GET STARTED IN YOUR ROLE? • FINDING AND MENTORING NEW VOLUNTEERS?
- NETWORKING WITH OTHER CLUBS?
- LEARNING HOW TO SAFELY SOCIALIZE YET HAVE FUN!

If you find yourself saying yes to one or more questions, please join us for a short yet powerful 2-hour session online on Zoom.

During this transition into a post-covid restriction period, we at SWCFFI feel this is an especially important time to get our club members and volunteers excited about the return to normalcy through events, announcements, organizing and even attracting new membership.

Many of us who are BOD members need that “shot in the arm” of inspiration and tools to get everyone to move forward and get back to not just fly fishing, but the one thing we all enjoy in our clubs – social interaction and friendships.

It is not necessary, but it helps us at the SWCFFI to organize the day, so please take a moment to RSVP our Secretary Susi Wright by clicking on this email link: secretary@swcffi.org

Meeting Schedule is on the next page.

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Announcements & News (Con't)

Club Management Day | April 17, 2021

10:00 - 10:30am

Group Room

10:30 - 11:00 am

Fly Fishing: Engaging the Younger Crowd

11:00-11:50 am

Breakout Rooms
*group room open - help desk

12:00-12:30 pm

WRAP UP

BREAKOUT ROOMS

11:00 - 11:50 am > BREAKOUT ROOMS

PRESENTERS

Leadership Round Table: Presidents

Leigh Ann Swanson (SWC President), **Craig Porter** (SWC Vice President)

Casting For Recovery

Carole Ontivaros, Teresa Adams - CFR Southern California

Communications: Newsletters, Mailchimp, Club Express

Cece Rubin - SWC Communications Chair

Conservation

Mark Rockwell - NCCFFI VP Conservation

Education | Casting | Fly Tying

Joe Rodocchio (VP Education), **Jody Martin** (Casting, CI), **Steven Fernandez** (Fly Tying Chair)

Events | Fundraising | Speakers | Programs

Michael Schweit (Events), **Steve Schalla** (Fundraising) **Marshall Basset** (Speakers)

Project Healing Waters

Carole Katz - Project Healing Waters

Women's Programs

Cat White- Women's Programs

Youth | Trout In The Classroom

Carl Crawford (Youth), **Rich Bollinger** (Trout In the Classroom)

12:00 pm | Return to group room

Wrap-Up

*Allow 5-10 minutes between sessions for people to stretch grab a drink etc.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFI'S CLUB MANAGEMENT DAY ZOOM ON SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021
TIME: 10:00 AM - 12:30PM

WHERE YOUR CLUB CAN GROW AND PROSPER BY NETWORKING WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS

TOPIC SPECIFIC BREAK-OUT ROOMS!

FUNDRAISING
GROW MEMBERSHIP
ORGANIZE EVENTS
SOCIAL MEDIA
SUPPORT BOARD
MEMBERS
VOLUNTEERS
WEBSITE
WOMEN'S PROGRAMS



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Southwest Council

Announcements & News (Con't)

CALIFORNIA

FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS



EDITORIAL:

Chris Leonard, Mammoth Lakes professional guide, offers his perspective on the new 2021-22 Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations

If you think the 2020 United States presidential election was controversial, you haven't seen anything yet. Let's talk about the California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishing regulation changes that were put into place effective March 1, 2021. There's nothing like a chat about amendments made to sacred fisheries to get the voices soaring among those of us who live and breathe fishing. I wouldn't be lying when I state that I've already engaged in more than one heated discussion about the adjustments made to fisheries in the Eastern Sierra.

Let's back up to the beginning of this conversation... at the start of 2019, California DFW announced that they were going to completely overhaul the statewide fishing regulations by proposing an "inland trout regulation simplification process." Why? According to state employees, the regulations in place at the time were generally scattered everywhere thus confusing to many anglers. Confusing to anglers who don't read the regs, I suppose. I always understood them. Immediately, anglers from various backgrounds raised an eyebrow and took an interest and stances on the fisheries in question.

Which ones were being questioned? Blue-ribbon fisheries all over California. Questions arose from the start. Logical questions like, "What fish count data do department biologists have to make such changes?" to conspiracy theories like, "Is this because of a politician's son who got cited for a fishing violation, and the family was upset about regs being all over the place?" We heard the answer to the former. DFW employees told attendees of the first public meeting held in Bishop, California in March 2019 that there were no fish count surveys or data being used to make the decisions. I attended that meeting, and opened up the six public townhall meetings having asked that very first question. As for the politician's son, who knows? Maybe it happened. Maybe it was just laying down the groundwork for the endless stream of conspiracies that we'd all be bombarded with a year later.

What we do know is that fish biologists stated that they felt the regs were stale and archaic, and needed cleaning up. At the first meeting in Bishop, DFW fisheries biologist Roger Bloom stated that there are over 500 fisheries being questioned, with an almost equal number of regulations to match them. Their team felt that it was time to tidy up the little annually issued fishing reg booklets that we used to find in outfitters sitting in a neat stack next to the cash register, stating what's legit and what's not. Today, those regs are mostly online. DFW held the total of six public meetings in March and April 2019 soliciting public input. What effect did that have? Well, Hot Creek alone generated over 4,000 responses to what anglers felt DFW should do with Hot Creek. It was being proposed to allow spin anglers access to Hot Creek with lures. Those responses left a mark with DFW. What'd DFW do with Hot Creek? They left it alone. That, to me, is a victory. Sometimes the best approach is, if it's not broken, don't fix it. Not changing Hot Creek is a win.

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Announcements & News (Con't)

So how about the countless other fisheries in the Eastern Sierra? Well... there have been a lot of changes. A lot of the fisheries came out with newly imposed reg changes. Some of the most profound include not allowing fishing on the Cottonwood Lakes until September 1, closing tributaries of Crowley and Silver Lake during certain spawn seasons, eliminating a barbless-only season on Crowley, opening up some high country fisheries that were otherwise closed, and closing the East Walker River during the winter months when it is flowing at a minimal trickle of water.

What do these reg changes mean to you? Well, that's a deeply personal answer. I can't answer it for you. What I believe, and you need not agree with me, is that the Department of Fish and Wildlife really got a lot of the changes correct. For an organization that lives with a target on its back, myself being critical of them at times (justifiably or not), I think they did well with the majority of changes. First and foremost, I commend them for better protecting some of the Eastern Sierra's spawning fish. I think that is a critical component of improving the general health of some of the region's major fisheries. They left some spawning periods open to angling. For example, the Upper Owens with its famous spawning "snowbows" is still intact as a year-round fishery, but the cutts that move up from the lake are now more protected in tributaries like McGee Creek. I don't know why they decided to protect the cutthroat but left the spawning rainbows exposed. You'd have to ask them. But, the cutts got a good deal. The closure of the Cottonwood Lakes until September 1 is a very interesting proposal. Given that these lakes see snow usually around October, it's going to be a short season for those golden trout habitat lakes. Best guesses as to why you can't fish those lakes until September is because overnight hikers look to them for fuel, and in a system which isn't supported by hatchery fish, it's best to better protect them. Crowley was generally left alone – a conversation that scared many fly anglers. Fly and spin anglers alike are wondering why the barbless-only season was changed. It's legal to fish barbs on Crowley from August 1 to closing. This may have to do with enforcement, but I don't know for certain. The change in the Eastern Sierra that is bringing the greatest amount of attention and conversation is the East Walker River.

The East Walker River was closed to fishing during the winter before it was opened up to year-round fishing along with the Upper Owens and Hot Creek, about 15 years ago. A few anglers enjoy bearing the sub-freezing conditions, and fishing for East Walker fish holed up in some of the few buckets and deeper pools found in the river, but most people wait till spring, summer, and fall to fish those fish. The East Walker has minimal flows about three months of the year, and depending upon who you ask, those fish should or should not be left alone. The split in opinion is about 50-50. Fifty percent of the region's anglers think it should be open in the winter. Fifty percent do not. Half the region's guides think it should be accessible in the winter, half do not. Remember that the East Walker starts in California but flows into Nevada a few miles down the road, and Nevada is less Californian in their way of doing things, and therefore they haven't closed down its section of the East Walker in the winter.

What's my opinion of the East Walker? I think those fish should be given a rest in the winter. Those fish are exposed to predators when it is flowing just above 20 cubic feet per second (of water flow) – "cfs," and they have a hard enough time competing with each other for livable space. In a perfect world, DFW would just close it every time it flows under 70 cfs, but they don't have enough staffing to constantly observe and enforce the variation in flows. I also think it should be closed in August when temps are skyrocketing and that water is oxygen starved, but that opinion of mine fell on deaf ears. Most people, myself included, question why they proposed the taking of fish from one trout 18-inches or greater in length to two. Most meat fishers don't fish it because

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Announcements & News (Con't)

they are limited only one. Allowing two might further encourage the taking of more fish in there, a system considered sacred by the majority catch and release fly fishing crowd that fishes it. We shall see what will happen with the reg changes on the East Walker. As of now, Trout Unlimited and Caltrout are teamed up to take on DFW, and they want the winter closure overturned. As much as I respect the work of both TU and Caltrout, the presence of both organizations in the Eastern Sierra has been come and go over the years. But it makes a good soundbite, fighting big government bureaucracies for the rights of anglers. I don't want the East Walker open in the winter, there's hardly any water in it, but I also don't work for DFW. This decision is over my pay scale. Some of you are thankful for that. Why the East Walker and not Hot Creek and the Upper Owens? The East Walker is a true tailwater fishery, and it will flow barely over 20 cfs for most of winter. The Upper Owens and Hot Creek on the other hand are spring fed (the Owens is also manipulated by LADWP flows), but both have more water in the winter in them than comparably the East Walker. And, water equals fish habitat.

The changes, I think we can all agree, would have made a lot more sense if DFW used fish count science and census data to consider the fisheries. These changes were designed by humans for humans of the opinions and observations of humans. I'm not talking about making legit observations like recording fish counts over the years, I'm implying that DFW admittedly did their data-mining from asking people like myself in the Charlie Brown Auditorium at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop what I thought of their proposals. They asked people in the backrooms of the Bass Pro Shop in Ranch Cucamonga. At every meeting in the beginning of 2019, people in attendance asked the biologists what actual biology they had. They really didn't have any. Nothing tangible at least. The decisions that were made were made based upon the solicited input of anglers of all backgrounds of their respective opinions of the fisheries in question. I assume the DFW's biologists then looked at all the "data" (angler input), and made concluding decisions on the legality of our fisheries from there. Guess what? You still have to read the regs to know the regs. That didn't change.

I think they were proposing unthinkable changes, like opening up Crowley Lake to more months of catch and kill. They were considering allowing Hot Creek to become one giant bird's nest of spent trilene from broken off lures. But the pushback they got on both fisheries was enough to tell them to more or less let them be. So, DFW was corrected from the start on a lot of the potential mistakes not being allowed to happen to fisheries that they were proposing be reconsidered. They also listened to concerns of protecting the spawning browns in Rush Creek between Grant Lake and Silver Lake. But, the entire process lacked fish count data, and I'd have a more solid argument about keeping the East Walker closed during winter if there were tangible numbers to work with. You'd also have a better argument to make about keeping it open with real data. So, we are back where we started. The 2020 United States president has been determined. The changes to the fisheries? While legally in place now for year, well, they are still being discussed. Hard, real fish count data would have made this so much easier for everybody.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fishing Regulations effective March 1, 2021 can be found on their website.

Chris Leonard is a guide for Kittredge Sports, Mammoth Lakes.

2021 Outings Updates

Date	Destination	Streamkeeper	Phone
March 16-18	Pyramid Lake (Cancelled)	Paul Nakamura	310-487-3367
March 28-April 1	San Juan River (Cancelled)	Brian Mayer	562-619-9169
June 14-18	Lee's Ferry, AZ	Melinda Burns	951-415-9920
July 9-12	Hot Creek Ranch	John Williams	951-236-0862
August 1-6	San Juan River	Brian Mayer	562-619-9169
Sept. 20-24	Loa, Utah	John Williams	951-236-0862
Sept 24-28	Bridgeport, CA	Terry Roznos	562-322-4790
October 8—10	President's Outing/Kern	Terry Roznos	562-322-4790

Note: Dates may change and outings may be removed or added. Contact the Streamkeeper for latest information.

2021 LEE'S FERRY CLUB OUTING:

(T E N A T I V E P E N D I N G P A N D E M I C O R D E R S)



When: Monday – Friday June 14 -18th, 2021

Where: HC-67 Box 30 Marble Canyon, AZ 86036 928-355-2261

Fishing License: Don't forget to purchase your Arizona Fishing License.

[Click here](https://www.azgfd.com/license/) to purchase yours online or cut and paste this link: <https://www.azgfd.com/license/>

Lodging: Cliff Dwellers Lodge

Rooms are very comfortable, clean and spacious.

Rooms have two queen Beds

Each room has a coffee maker, mini fridge, little table/chair and TV.

Internet access is very spotty so don't plan on getting good coverage. Last time we were there my Verizon worked pretty good, John's AT&T not so good.

Meals:

Dinner : I am planning on cooking dinners for Tuesday and Thursday in a crock pot. Monday we will meet for dinner in the restaurant at 6pm. My meals will include a dinner salad and bread rolls. If you would like to bring a dish to share, let me know. I will supply all the paper goods. You just need to bring your own drink.

Pot Roast

Chicken Enchilada Casserole

Beef Soup

Lunches: Will be provided by Lee's Ferry Anglers.

Breakfast: You can go to the restaurant of have coffee and pastries and fruit at the Burns Room

Recommended Flies: Flies change everyday but the most current fly is a size 18 midge with flashy colors like red or green. Ginger colored scuds work as well as red san juan worms. Wooly Buggers worked well last time when we were trolling or stripping.

Snacks: Feel free to bring your favorite snack on the boats. We will be drifting as well as wading.

For more info, visit the Outing information on our club website.



HOT CREEK RANCH 2021



The cost of this trip this year is \$422 per person

Monies need to be to our treasurer

Tom Sakai

By 6/1/2021

Send Check Made out to: F.F.C.O.C.

P.O. Box 23005 Santa Ana, Ca. 92711-3005

Trip starts Hot Creek Ranch July 9, 2021

Check in time is 4:00 P.M. Friday **NOT BEFORE!**

Hot Creek continued:

Trip ends July 12, 2021 you must be out of the cabin by 10:00 a.m. and may fish the rest of the day.

Note: The trip is currently booked full but John Williams is keeping a waiting list and there are typically cancellations so let John know if you are interested and he will add you to the list. John can be reached at troutbum2@earthlink.net

You must be a club member to attend.

You will need a signed release form on file for this trip.

If you have previously attended a club outing and your form is on file you are set.

Check with Melinda Burns our Membership Chairperson to see if it is on file. Thank you

If for some reason this trip is canceled your money will be returned

FFCOC 2021 Outings to South Central Utah

Deposit \$200 **Non Refundable** to hold your spot forwarded to the guide.

Max number of guests per trip 6 **1 spot left**

***September 20-24 2021 Loa, Utah**

Quiet Fly Fisher \$ 1,000 Total 5 days guided contracted

For More information: Visit the FFCOC website and view Calendar entry

President's Outing

Dates: October 8th - 10th

Location: Kernville - Sequoia Lodge

Reservations are NOW being accepted!!



Lodging at the Sequoia Lodge on the Kern River has now been secured for the 2021 President's Outing. This annual tradition is a great event to gather for fun, fishing, telling of stories, and to spend some time with your fellow Club members. The dates this year are Friday, October 8th to Sunday, October 10th; check your calendars! The days are open to whatever activities you would like to pursue (fishing the Kern River would be a good one!). The evenings will feature gatherings at the Sequoia Lodge compound for dinner and socialization (more on that later).

The Sequoia Lodge features Single Queen (SQ), Single King (SK), and Double Queen (2Q) rooms. The Club has paid the first night deposit for the block of rooms reserved. Single night lodging rates for the Sequoia Lodge are as follows:

Room Type	Rate	Tax (6%)	Total
SQ	\$135.00	\$8.10	\$143.10
SK	\$145.00	\$8.70	\$153.70
2Q	\$149.00	\$8.94	\$157.94

You may now contact your President (me) with your specific room request. I will then send you written confirmation of your request with room assignment. When your lodging request is confirmed, please send your reservation deposit to our Treasurer, Tom Sakai.

Our group reservation is subject to a 30 day Cancellation Policy. Should this outing be canceled, your deposit will be returned. At a future date (end of August), all confirmed attendees will be asked to contact the Sequoia Lodge directly to provide your personal credit card info for payment of balance due on checkout.

Please contact me with your questions, or with your reservation request. Thank you!!!

Contact Info:

Terry Roznos

(562) 322-4790 (cell)

taronos@verizon.net

Reservation Deposit Info:

Checks payable to: FFCOC

Mail to: FFCOC/ Treasurer Tom Sakai

P.O. Box 23005, Santa Ana, Ca. 92711-3005

Bridgeport Outing 2021

Dates: September 24 - 28

Location: Willow Springs Motel and RV Park, Bridgeport

Reservations are NOW being accepted!!

Lodging at the Willow Springs Motel and RV Park has now been secured. The plan is to arrive in Bridgeport on Friday, September 24. Three full days of fishing the Bridgeport area, then return home on Tuesday, September 28.

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 by boat, float tube or from the shore on Bridgeport Reservoir, Upper or Lower Twin Lakes, or float tubing on the Virginia Lakes. Ken's Sporting Goods in town is generally the source of fishing knowledge in the area; buy some flies and a t-shirt or two, and the advice gets better!! You can also check their website for a Fish Report, but best to stop in to get the latest! You can also secure a Fishing Guide at Ken's as well; gets you access to some private waters if desired.

Generally, members disperse to their desired fishing locations in the morning. Then after a day's fishing, return back to the Willow Springs Motel to rendezvous and discuss the day's fishing successes (or not), and plans for the next day. The evening group campfire, hosted by our Willow Springs staff, provides a great opportunity for telling the day's fish stories.

Willow Springs Motel and RV Park, approximately 5 miles south of Bridgeport, 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 30A full hook-up RV sites are available for your lodging choices. Standard Single Rooms are \$95/night, Kitchenette Rooms are \$130/night, and RV Spaces are \$45/night.

Sounds like an Outing for you? Please contact me with your questions, or with your reservation request. Thank you!!!

Contact Info:

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



Fish Tales

Tale By: Craig Weismann



Like most of you I have been itching and twitching to get out and fish. I finally got an opportunity. I have been planning to visit my daughter Karli and soon to be son-in-law Jake in Colorado. They have a home in Arvada and needed some fine tuning on some construction projects they had going. They asked if I would come help them finish some things before their wedding date in June, as they would be having guests stay at their home while away on their honeymoon. Don't need to ask me twice. The state of Colorado is one of my favorite places to fish. I figured a little work and a little play. I made my reservations to fly and packed some tools. I brought my most trusted tool, my new Scott Radian Fly Rod, that I happen to purchase from a gift certificate I bid on at the OC Fly Fishers auction in 2019. Of course TSA had an issue with some of my tools in my bag, but let me pass when I told them my story and pleaded that I needed to go because the fish were calling me. He saw my fly gear, wadders and my added Covid 10 lbs, he understood. He told me he was originally from Montana and could relate. Hint: make sure you really rap your saw blades well when traveling so they don't poke the TSA inspector.

I arrived and I hit the ground running to get our work done so we could go fishing. 7 Trips to Home Depot and the lumber yard. Dropped off some donations to Habitat for Humanity from the demo of bathrooms, dry wall repair, 2 toilets installed and working, cabinets installed, built some window planter boxes, cleaned up and organized the garage and we were ready to go fishing.

I had pre-booked a guided trip with Jake and myself with the one and only, Pat Dorsey, for March 7. He's a legend around Colorado and a fine gentleman too. But it was March 5 and our work was done. So we headed up to The Big Thompson outside Estes Park on our own. Better known as the BIG "T" to the locals. Well the Big "T" was more like the little "t". It was skinny and lots of ice and snow. The upper section below the dam was open water, but everyone that wanted to fish The "T" that day headed there. We passed and took a road trip to Fort Collins and decided to hit the Cache la Poudre River. We stopped at St. Peter's Fly Shop for some intel. Great shop if you ever in Fort Collins. We loaded up on some sweet secret flies and headed to the Poudre. It looked promising with open water and marginal ice and snow. Clear skies with puffy white clouds and only a few guys out. I think it's going to be a good day. Hey, at least we were fishing. We hiked up the North Fork below the spill way and found some nice slow water. Possibly too slow as the fish were finicky to the fly. We saw a few heads up and tried the secret size 22 Mayfly recommended from the fly shop. My eyes aren't what they used to be and I couldn't find it half the time. Neither could the fish. I targeted a fish that kept rising, but just couldn't make it eat. I showed Jake the target and he moved downstream to approach it from the other direction. 3 casts later and bingo, fish on! Well I sorta caught that one I guess. Or should I say I get an assist? It was like that all day, I spot them and he catches them. I did have one grab, but got too excited and took it back from him. Hey, at least we fished that day.

March 7th and we are up early and itching to go. We pack our lunches (thanks COVID) guides no longer supply lunches and head out. We drive to the town of Bailey and meet Dorsey at the Conoco Gas station. Grab some coffee and make the long 5 minute trek access the highway and on to a private ranch that you have to enter with a secret hand shake (key pad on the gate).

Continued, next page →

Fish Tales (Con't)

We find a nice place to park and gear up. It's a beautiful sunny day, high 50's, little to no wind and clear nice moving water. We are fishing The North Fork of the Platte River, Rawhide Ranch. This river section is a private section that you book in advance and pay a rod fee per angler. The Rancher gets the rod fee. After all, he lets you fish his private water. The most fantastic thing about this place, you and your fishing buddy or buddies are the only ones on it. Or at least can fish it this day. That's what you paid the rod fee for. No elbowing each other for the hot fishing spot, because every spot is a rod bender. I kid you not, we landed fish in every spot we fished. The fish are strong and healthy. When I say epic, I mean forearm sore epic. If you have ever fished with Pat Dorsey before, you know he is all about small on the flies. Size 20, 22 and even 24's. We used Black Beauties, Red Larva, micro eggs and pheasant tails. All produced fish in the 16-30 inch range. I can't tell you how many 5-6lb fish we lost. That was frustrating but fun. When a large Rainbow shakes it's head over and over again to throw that speck of a fly, you learn how to finesse it. Or not!

We broke for lunch to rest our forearms and warm our feet. The water was about 43 degrees. We enjoyed watching a large Bald Eagle take our place and scout the river from a tall pine tree as we ate lunch. We continued where we left off after lunch. Many more fish landed and lost. As it got time to go, I keep saying 1 more fish, they kept coming and Pat had to finally call it a day.. What a memorable day it was. It had been a long year of waiting for this Epic day to come. I was able to scratched my itch and tame my twitch in Colorado on The North Fork of the Platte River.

Happy to be fishing again!!

Craig Weismann



Fish Tales(Con't)

Tale By: John Gleaves

From O.C. to C.O.: March Fly Fishing in the Rockies.



With work and kids still in Zoom mode, my family backed the minivan (really), strapped the pet to the roof (not really) and drove 16 hours to my parent's place in Estes Park, Colorado for a bit of winter fun.

Estes Park is sleepy winter town that explodes with summer tourists as soon as the first green blade of grass sprouts in Rocky Mountain National Park. It also offers some amazing fly fishing as the Big Thompson River, which starts high in Rocky Mountain, meanders through town, before dropping down into the canyon to eventually join the legendary South Platte.

With thoughts of winter fly fishing dancing through my mind as we cleared the Utah boarder, I was sad to see the February polar vortex had left its icy grip on much of Colorado. Fortunately, March is that month in the Rockies that can never seem to make up its mind. One day, storms are dropping 29" of snow in 24 hours and a two days later it is shorts and t-shirt weather. We walked into the first real thaw of the spring which broke open some big chunks of fishable water below the Estes Park Dam.

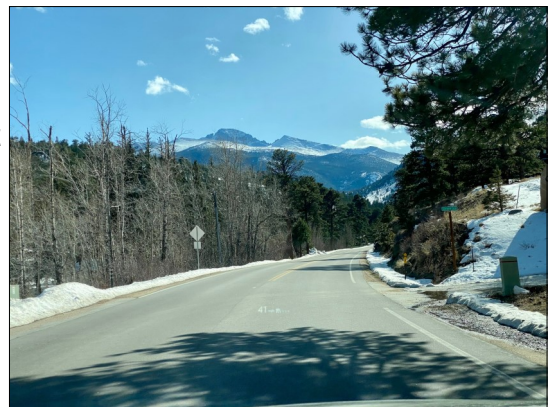


Thus it was last Friday, having sat through 2 feet of snow on Monday and Tuesday, that I blew off my afternoon of work to take advantage of a spectacularly beautiful day of fishing. Clear skies and sunshine with temps creeping up towards 60 meant that the trout had come out to feed. Not only had they come out, but they seemed to be enjoying their first taste of sunshine after a winter hidden under ice and snow.

The crystal clear water remained incredibly low, so it was 7X tippet with rainbow warriors and tiny midge patterns hanging under a New Zealand strike indicator. While I like using the wool strike indicators for clear shallow water, going with white wool in spring has the added benefit of blending in with the snow melt drifting through the river, which makes the rig nearly invisible to even the most spooky trout.

The afternoon started off several juvenile rainbow trout in the 5-6" range before I managed to get a 12" brown trout to take interest in my rainbow warrior and find his way into my net. I capped the afternoon off with a feisty 10" rainbow that rewarded me with some aerial headshakes and acrobatics before coming unbuttoned.

The drive back up the canyon to Estes Park offered up white capped peaks while the extra hour of daylight made summer feel incredibly close.



Fish Tales(Con't)

Tale By: Larry Behm and Brian Mayer

FIT Outing to E. San Gabriel River (March 15, 2021)

As we arrived at the parking lot for the Bridge to Nowhere trailhead, the clouds hung low with a cool light breeze. By the time the three of us were wadered-up and stepping off on the trail, a light rain was falling. This made for excellent fishing on Monday 3/15. We spent the morning chasing wild rainbows. We did not have to hike all the way to the bridge, we started finding good pools about 2 miles up the river.

The rain was causing the smaller fish to look up. Little 3 inchers, with amazing grit, were hitting our dry flies on the first cast to a pool. They were trying to swallow a fly that was half their size! Fortunately, most of these little guys could not hook up and so our flies flew through the air when we set the empty hook. And being springtime with branches budding, our flies snagged behind us often.

The count was not as high as some days, Brian took a dozen to hand and Larry took six. Most of the better sized fish were taken on nymphs. Todd Gomez made his first attempt at small-stream fishing and caught a couple. As all first-timers, he had to spend the better half of the morning learning how cast and approach the fish in such close quarters. Once he got dialed in, his flies started producing.

We called it quits shortly after noon, when the rain became so hard it put the fish down.



Fish Tales(Con't)

Tale By: Melinda and Honey Burns

Fishing Pyramid Lake Nevada

With: Pilot Peak Guide Service

Glenn Lemon

775-622-5678

pilotpeakguideservice@gmail.com

<http://www.pilotpeakguideservice.com>

Honey Burns and I decided to trek out of the chaos last month now that we had our vaccination from the crazy Covid-19 virus that has disrupted all our lives. But where to go was the question? Kern River, Upper Owens or the Lower Owens. Then we thought we hadn't been to Pyramid Lake in a few years and it is always exciting to freeze your butt off and catching a giant Lahontan Trout.

So, we decided instead of staying at a motel or hotel we would rent a travel trailer. Luckily for us when I called to see if we could have a travel trailer placed there for us the Camp Host offered to rent their second trailer for a very low price. We didn't have to deal with renting a travel trailer and having to tow it or do all the other things you do when utilizing a travel trailer and we were only minutes away from fishing. We didn't have to get up a "0" dark thirty to get on the water.

We were going to try and fish it on our own but Ernie Gulley one of our fellow club members (***who is also a guide at Lake Crowley***) recommended we at least hire a guide for half day so we can get pertinent information on how the lake was fishing. So we did. On Ernie's recommendation we hired Glenn Lemon.

Glenn taught us how to use a switch rod and the importance of using this type of rig at Pyramid Lake. They are typically 2 feet longer and this allows you to cast farther in the wind. As most of you who have fished Pyramid Lake, you know the windier it is the better the fishing.

So as I said, our first day was pretty windy and cloudy. Fishing was good. I caught my record fish of 9 lbs and 8 lbs. Plus others. I was mostly excited when I caught a fish on a fly that I tied. Thank you Ernie Gulley for the info on that fly. However, the guy next to me had to burst my bubble by catching a 20lb trout with a size 16 midge. What a show off. He and his friend were from Wyoming and this was their first time fishing here. That dude had a great day. He and his friend were pulling in fish left and right almost all day. They had the real hot spot. It seemed like every other cast one or the other were on. It was a fun day all in all.

The next two days we fished on our own. We didn't go as well. 1st because the weather was beautiful so the fish weren't biting. So we went up and down the lake to most of the fishing spots to talk to other fisherman. They also said it was too pretty of a day for the fish to be biting. We actually didn't start fishing until the afternoon and we went back to Pelican Rocks to fish. But we had to use our rods so we couldn't cast as far out as we needed to but we still hooked some fish. Not many but still we had fun.

The 3rd day we decided to rent ladders or in our case platforms to fish the beach. It was a very blustery day and people were catching if they could get their line out far enough. Our 9ft 7 wt rod just wasn't doing it for us at least for the indicator fishing. So Honey Burns decided to tie on a streamer and he was able to bring in some nice fish that day. I only had one on a midge but I had some nibbles I think. Let's just say my flies were chewed on.

Continued, next page →

Fish Tales(Con't)

Oh did I tell you we took my puppy, Piper. She had a fun day exploring the rock areas. It is always a good day with your puppy at your side. Well except when she is trying to eat your guides shoes. She had some type of fetish for his boots and every time he was close to her she would attack his boots playfully.

It was a great get away amongst all the chaos of this world today.

Happy Fishing my friends.

Melinda and John Burns



Flies That Keep On Giving!

By John Williams

For years I have saved fly patterns and cut them from magazines, looked at tying books and shared many patterns with friends. I found this several years ago and came across this pattern while unpacking all my shit. This will be the first Dragon fly pattern I have ever tried and I like the results. This looks like a big meat for trout.

DRAGON FLY NYMPH



Hook:	Firehole 718 Size 10 or similar
Thread:	Black 8/0
Eyes:	Black Medium Bead Chain Eyes
Body:	Golden Olive Marabou
Legs:	Cascade Crest Silicone Micro Olive/Black
Thorax Dubbing:	Hareline Dark Shade Rainbow Scud Dub
Thorax Cover:	Mottled Turkey Tail
Glue:	Super Glue Gel Formula
Thorax Dressing:	UV Clear

1. Place a smear of super glue on the shank of the hook two head lengths behind the eye and start your thread in the glue.
2. Place a pair of bead eyes on top of the hook where you tied in your thread, make several wraps to secure the eyes. The super glue will assist in keeping the eyes secure when dry.
3. Tie in a turkey tail feather cut ¼" wide by splitting the bond between the fibers with your scissors, secure it to the top of the hook behind the eyes on top of the shank, letting the tapered end extend forward.

Continued, next page →

Flies That Keep On Giving! (Con't)

4. Smear the shank of the hook with superglue, run your thread to the back end of the shank, tie in clumps of marabou while holding onto the butts folding the entire feather clump back to secure all the fibers you have removed from the stem. Do this forward until you get 3/4 of the way up the shank. Important! Trim your bodies with a fatter butt than the forward section and then a fast this butt.
5. Tie in two legs on either side of the shank.
6. Dub in the middle of the leg tie in and just in front of the forward legs move your thread back to between the legs and fold back the turkey to form a thorax cover and tie down between the legs.
7. Cut behind the thread carefully leaving a slight amount extending. Smear your thread with a slight amount of super glue and make several wraps and whip finish.

This guy looks better when wet; see below.

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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Burns

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