

ON THE FLY

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
FLY FISHERS CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY



July 2015

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Website:

<http://www.fcoc.org>

Club Meeting:

July 8, 2015
Phoenix Club
1340 S. Sanderson
Anaheim, CA
6:00 pm - Wet Fly
7:00 pm - Dinner
Dinner & Program - \$30 Cash
Program Only - \$10 Cash
\$1 Fee for Credit Cards

Board Meeting:

July 20, 2015
Montesilla Mobile Home Park
15601 South B St, Tustin
Club Members Are Welcome
7:00 pm

Affordable Fly Fishing in New Zealand with Zane Mirfin



New Zealand has burned brightly as an international fishing destination ever since American Zane Grey first put New Zealand on the world map back in 1926 with his epic book, *Tales of the Angler's Eldorado, New Zealand*. Ever since then, many California anglers have made the pilgrimage across the Pacific and reported glowingly of the clear pristine waters, large slabs of beautiful trout, and the warm hospitality of the New Zealand people themselves.

One magazine article many years ago described fly fishing in New Zealand as "like driving a Porsche - by the time you can afford it, your eyes and reflexes have gone," Well, that's not the true story anymore and it may well be

that today fishing New Zealand is easier and cheaper than at any other time in history. Modern economic development has led to a thriving and vibrant country that relies on tourism as a major industry, and services, internet access and communications are all world class.

Information, accommodation, air travel, rental vehicles, cuisine, fly shops, and access have never been better and there is huge scope for do-it-yourselfers to enjoy a highly successful and affordable fishing trip to New Zealand. In fact, the options are pretty much endless and there's no longer any requirements for fly fishers to stay at expensive, all-inclusive fishing lodges **if** they don't want to. There are very reasonable small motels everywhere, good pubs and restaurants where food is delicious, plentiful and very reasonable. There are also many camping opportunities and grocery stores where you can stock up on any and all food items you might wish to have while "in the bush."

Our July guest speaker, Zane Mirfin, is an expert on the trout fisheries of New Zealand, especially the rivers and lakes of the northern half of the South Island. Zane will lead us through an image-rich tour of modern New Zealand and the fishing opportunities easily available without costing an arm and a leg. The last time Zane addressed the clubs introducing many of us to the great fly fishing in New Zealand was in 2008, complete with him in a leg cast and having to use crutches after a July mid-winter (in New Zealand) hunting trip and bad slip on ice. He's older and wiser now, and at 47, has been a professional fly fishing guide since November 1985 -- 30 years --and has plenty of fishing tips and strategies to make you a more successful angler and not necessarily a "big spender." And, as his subject for this tour of SoCal fly fishing clubs is affordable fly fishing in NZ, he will show almost all he has learned about being a smart and budget-conscious fly fisher and Kiwi-land visitor.

Fly anglers from around the world have fished with Zane, and he has been in the fortunate position of having fished with or guided many of our previous club speakers, including Mike Lawson, Barry & Cathy Beck, David Lambroughton and Dave Whitlock, among others.

Since we last saw Zane he has been on many great new fly fishing adventures that he will show and describe to us. Innovation is in his blood, and at the low point of the Global Financial Crisis, as a self-employed operator, he feared that few people would travel to NZ and employ him, so he decided to run for political office and help bring about good policies to his area. The result has been two terms as an elected local government councillor for the Tasman District Council, making important decisions that affect both his community and the environment. As an accredited resource consent commissioner, Zane is well qualified to describe what has been happening within the New Zealand fishing and environmental scenes. And, by the way, he kept and still has a busy schedule guiding fly fishers from around the world; his fears of having a dearth of clients were unfounded.

For those of you who haven't come across Zane before, you can check out his website www.strikeadventure.com

Accompanied again by his capable wife Aimee (whom he calls the real brains behind his guiding business and a not-shy-or-hesitant but highly qualified driver on congested California freeways!), Zane and Aimee have taken the opportunity to escape the NZ winter and four young children to soak up some Californian summer fun and spread the good word about fishing in their native land.

You'll find Zane and Aimee friendly and easy to get along with, so bring plenty of questions along for a fun night and they'll do their very best to give you all the answers you need to know about fishing in modern, and affordable, New Zealand.

Please join Zane and Aimee as they guide us through affordable New Zealand. See you there!

Andy Frumento

President's Message

by Doug Jones

At the June 10th club meeting I was reminded by many of the fishing reports shared during dinner of the primary reason I belong to the FFCOC and make a habit of regularly attending the meetings. For me, the reason is the friends I have made in the club and the connections I make with them and others through fly fishing. I was reminded of this when Andy Frumento shared about May's 5 Dot Ranch outing and noted that while the fishing was just okay, he was there with friends from the club and his son and that he felt the trip was a real success. Gerry Gruhn shared about his recent trip with his son and grandson to Lee's Ferry and how his grandson out-fished both his father and grandfather. My fishing story was about a trip to the Bighorn River with my brother and a couple of my friends from high school. If it wasn't for our once-a-year fly fishing trip, I'd never see these guys.

More on the Montana trip. Over the years I've heard many of you speak of great trips to Montana's Bighorn River and decided that I'd make it there in 2015. Turns out I scheduled spring and fall trips hoping to take advantage of epic hatches in both seasons. In May I went with my brother Chris and two high school friends from northern California that I stay in touch with through fly fishing. We stayed at the Leaning Tree Lodge in Fort Smith based on recommendations of club members and because they have been gracious enough to support our club over the years by making trip donations to our auction. Rachael and Mark Stroda built the lodge which is managed by Rachael while Mark in the outfitter/lead guide. The accommodations turned out to be exactly what we needed with great food, large bedrooms with private baths and a comfortable living/gathering room area. The lodge is within a block of the Fort Smith fly shops and a few minute drive to the river.

Fishing was great with plenty of nice Rainbows and Browns although we missed the epic spring hatch which we were told came about a month earlier than normal due to this year's weather patterns. On the way back to the Billings airport everyone agreed to schedule the same trip next year.



2015 Auction News

Alright, boys and girls- the major fund raiser of the year is coming up, the annual FFCOC auction. We depend on the auction to fund our club and it's many good works. We are still accepting donations and we have some good ones, like rods, reels (including saltwater conventional), flies, artwork, trips, guiding and so much more. Especially important is our Live Auction, and we have some dandy items, including 2 nights stay at Hot Creek Ranch, Disneyland tickets, and who knows what else...I guess you'll just have to be here! Of course, coming to the Auction is half the fun, and the bargains you can get are truly amazing...don't forget, THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUND RAISER OF THE YEAR, so do plan on coming and supporting the FFCOC.

After all, it's YOUR club! Thank you,
Jim Edwards (714) 337-5899, jimmywt1957@yahoo.com

FFCOC 50th Anniversary Celebration - Old Photos Wanted

March 9, 2016 - Mark your calendars

As part of the fiftieth celebration we would like to showcase photos of club outings and members from as far back as possible. If you can, e-mail them to me in electronic format. I know film was the only form back then. So, if you have prints only, bring them to a club meeting and loan them to Rich Fanning. He'll scan them for me and then return the originals to you.

Please search through your photo's and find a few, they will bring enjoyment to many who have not seen the photo's showing our club at work and play. Thank you all for your help in advance.

John Williams e-mail: troutbum2@earthlink.net

Club Meeting Dates and Speakers

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
7-8-15	2nd Wed	Zane Mirfin	"Affordable Fly Fishing In New Zealand"
8-12-15	2nd Wed	Mark Berlin	"So Calif Back Country Fly Fishing In Depth"
9-9-15	2nd Wed	AUCTION	-----
10-7-15	1st Wed	Ernie Gulley	"Trophy Stillwater of the Eastern Sierra"
11-11-15	2nd Wed	Dave Trimble	"Fly Fishing for Sharks"
12-16-15	3rd Wed	Dan Lecount	"Advanced Tactics for Big Trout"

Outings and Events for 2015

The Outings and Events planned for 2015 are listed below. If you are interested in participating in any of these or want additional information, you should contact the Streamkeeper listed in the table below.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STREAMKEEPER</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
July 10-13	Hot Creek Ranch	John Williams	951 236-0862
September 21-25	Southern Utah	John Williams	951 236-0862
October 16-18	FFF Fly Fishing Faire - Bishop	Melinda Burns	951 415-9920
October 16-18	President's Outing Kern River	Doug Jones	714 998-7304
November 2-6	Lee's Ferry	Melinda Burns	951 415-9920
December	TBD		

Hot Creek Ranch July 10-13, 2015



For those who have signed up for the Hot Creek outing your \$400 is due by the end of May, I will turn the list over to Brian Mayer our treasurer and he will collect the funds from you, Make your checks payable to the F.F.C.O.C.. Many of us have heard there is a water shortage in California and much of the west. Please read Kevin Peterson's letter below that addresses this question. I personally look forward to a wonderful time at the ranch.

Greetings Everyone,

I am sure that most of you have been hearing the grim reports on the snow pack here in the Eastern Sierra and on the water outlook for the entire state of California. I have heard that the main topic of conversation at club meetings etc. has been frantic about the upcoming fishing season and that many folks are in a panic over it and even thinking of hanging it up until we get some water.

I would like to give you a few facts. Hot Creek is a spring creek. 85% of our summer water comes from the upstream springs. While the main springs are 30% down, we still have 70% of our water, which puts us in **much better shape** than most fisheries in the state! The water situation is not at its best but fishing can still be pretty darn good and FUN if you are willing to work a little more than you might be used to.

I have been walking the creek every day and there are plenty of fish in the system! They are all not in the usual places which will mean you may have to figure it out a bit but that is the fun of it!! We have all seen those banner years when fishing was really easy! Well, there is a balance to everything in life and this probably won't be one of those years, however, it can still be fun! Maybe instead of telling your friends about how MANY fish you caught, you can tell them about how you hooked those tough fish that you worked on for a while and finally got them to eat. I guess what I am trying to say is that Fly Fishing isn't always about numbers but about the experience. If you have to catch a ton of fish to have a good day on the water, there may be better places to fish this year, but if you are out for an incredible Fly Fishing experience in one of the most beautiful places on earth, then come to Hot Creek Ranch!

We hope to see you here,
Kevin and Lisa Peterson

LEE'S FERRY OUTING

November 2-6, 2015



Only a few openings left so make your reservation soon to insure you are included!

The Colorado River is described as “The World’s Largest Spring Creek” that boasts 15.5 miles of clear running tailwater fishery flowing from Lake Powell.

Come join Honey Burns and I along with 15 other lucky club members as we fish one of the waters of the 7 Natural Wonders of the World. This trip will consist of 4 nights lodging at the Cliff Dwellers (2 Adults per room) and 3 days of guided fishing (Drift or Wet Wading). I have reserved Rooms 26 -32 along with one Two Room Suite, each room has two beds. But if you want the room to yourself then you pay the full price. Each room is \$85.28.

We also have the following guides reserved: Terry Gunn, Jeff English, Skip Dixon, Natalie Jensen, Tyson Warren, Dale Gauthier, TJ Carrington and Kevin Campbell. Guides are \$450 for 2 fisherman.

This cost of this trip is approximately \$845 per person. This does not include tips for the guides, meals or transportation.

Sign ups are now being taken. You can sign the Outings Sheet at the next meeting or you can call or me to place you on the list, 951.415.9920 mel11755@pacbell.net.

Melinda and John Burns
Streamkeepers

Trip Reports

Espiritu Santos Bay, Mexico. May, 2015

By Floyd Sabins, June, 2015

In late May, 2015 my son Ed and I spent a good week fishing Espiritu Santos Bay on the Yucatan coast of Mexico. We were invited to join a congenial group of good fly fishers organized by Leo Connally and arranged by Fly Water Travel. The Google Earth image shows the Yucatan peninsula and Ascencion Bay, where Ed and I made our first bonefish trip in 1992 and I contracted the bonefish addiction. In the ensuing 20+ years I have indulged my addiction in many locales: Christmas Island, Los Roques, Belize, Florida Keys, Yucatan, Xcalac, and the Bahamas. For a variety of health and family issues I had not done any salt-water fishing for the past three years and was rather “rusty” at the beginning of the trip. This trip was our first visit to Espiritu Santos Bay.



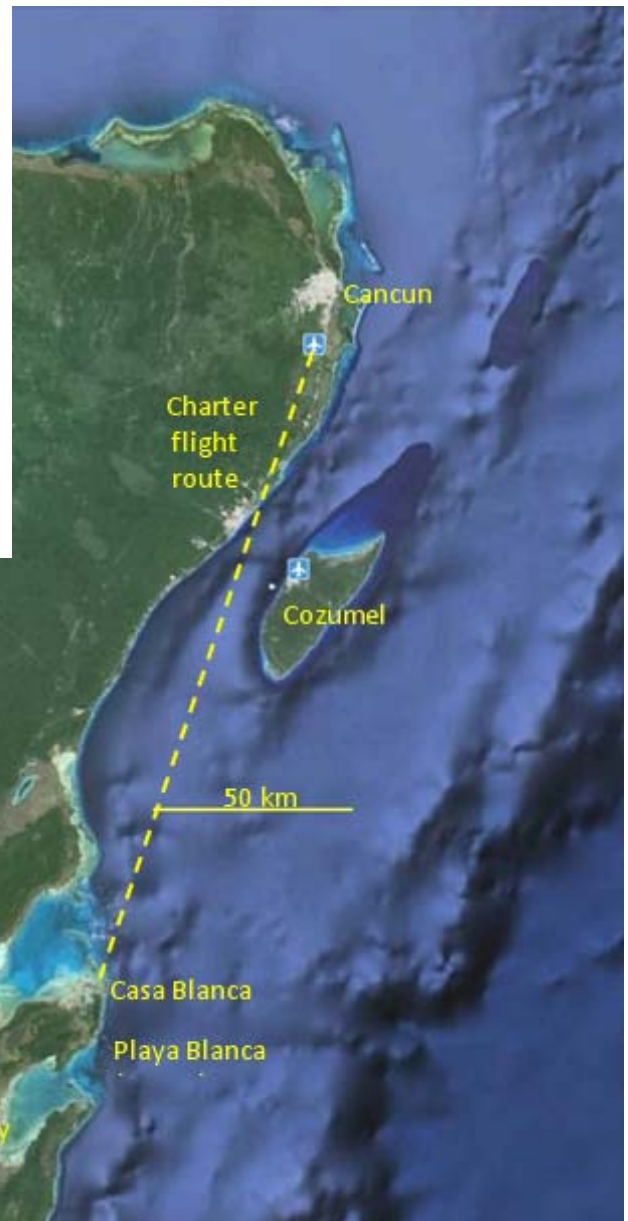
Our group assembled in Cancun and took a charter flight south to Casa Blanca lodge at the mouth of Ascencion Bay where a truck carried us some 8 km south to Playa Blanca lodge. Each morning the truck carried us 8 km south to the landing where the flats boats (16-foot long) and guides were based. We then had a 12 km boat ride southwest along the coast to the mouth of Espiritu Santo Bay where the guides say turn south for permit or north for bonefish, although both species are found throughout the Bay.

In preparation for the trip I tied a number of traditional bonefish flies: McVey Gotchas, Bonefish Bitters, Puffs, Merkin Crabs, Belize Crabs, and Christmas Island Specials all of which the guides largely ignored. I also tied two patterns recommended by Fly Water Travel that were new to me: Squimp with yellow eyes and Veverka Mantis Shrimp. These patterns worked very well. Ed was the hot rod on our boat and I was his photographers mate. One day in addition to bonefish he landed his first career permit and needed a tarpon on the same day to have a “Slam”. We hunted tarpon for the remainder of the day, but with no luck. Another of our group did manage a Slam. In addition to bonefish and permit, during the trip Ed landed: a 20 pound jack (after 30 minutes and nearly being spooled); a large snook (robalo); and a small tarpon. Playa Blanca lodge has a tradition for an angler who lands his first permit. After dinner and with great ceremony he must eat a large pickled scorpion chased by a shot of tequila. I was proud of Ed’s performance.

We spent one day tarpon fishing in Santa Rosa Lagoon located on the landward side of Playa Blanca which involves navigating through tunnels chopped through the dense mangroves. I hooked a nice tarpon that went into the mangroves and broke off. Ed jumped a tarpon that threw the hook after a few jumps. These are typical experiences for tarpon fishermen. Despite the frequent frustration, jumping a tarpon is to me the most exciting aspect of fly fishing.



**Floyd and bonefish (pez raton).
Espiritu Santos Bay, Playa Blanca
Lodge. May, 2015.**



Yucatan Peninsula. Google Earth image.



Ed with a Permit



Ed and tarpon. Espiritu Santos Bay, Playa Blanca Lodge. May, 2015.



Ed, Jorge, and jack (~20 pounds) after 30 minute battle on 8-weight rod. Espiritu Santos Bay, Playa Blanca



Ed and snook (robalo) Espiritu Santos Bay, Playa Blanca Lodge. May, 2015.

5 DOT Ranch Outing Report - May 2015

By Andy Frumento

On May 29, 2015 ten FFCOC members traveled to Susanville, CA for a three day clinic on a private lake on 5 Dot Ranch called “Outside The Box”. The clinic was designed to help anglers of all skill levels learn more about fly fishing in still waters.

The trip started out great with a 20 oz. prime rib dinner on Friday night, followed by a presentation by our head guide, Doug Ouellette. On Saturday our guides showed us different tactics and set-ups on how to improve our fishing on all still waters.

Unfortunately the fish were not too impressed with our new techniques. As one guide said, “the fishing is challenging”.... I had another word which I cannot print!

Our largest Rainbow was a nice 3 lb beauty caught by Dawn Martin. However most of us averaged 2 to 3 fish a day – not the norm by any means for 5 Dot Ranch. Even with the difficult fishing this trip was a lot of fun.... we shared stories of past fishing trips, had a lot of laughs, and got to know each other a little better. Sometimes that’s better than just catching fish.

Andy Frumento



Dawn Martin with a Nice 5 DOT Rainbow

FLIES THAT KEEP ON GIVING Emerging Caddis Pupa



By John Williams

Hook:	Daiichi 1160 size 12-16
Thread:	UTC 70 Olive
Lead:	.025 Lead seven wraps
Eyes:	Extra Small bead chain eyes
Rib:	UTC Small Olive wire
Gills:	Ostrich feather natural
Abdomen:	A blend of: Golden yellow dubbing, Ice Dub UV Lt. Olive, Ice Dub Olive
Legs:	Partridge back feather
Thorax:	Hares ear dubbing
Cement:	Super glue
Shell Back:	Loon UV Clear Fly Finish Thin

1. Mount hook in vise
2. Make seven wraps of lead on the mid point of the hook shank.
3. Start your thread and secure the lead.
4. Tie in the bead chain eyes leaving an eye space behind the eye for the final tie down.
5. Tie in the wire and run the thread down to the very bend of the hook.
6. Tie in the ostrich feather by the tip after breaking off two inches to get to the sweet part.
7. Dub the abdomen with your mixture, (you can adjust the color to your liking) from the bend to the $\frac{3}{4}$ point forward.
8. Spiral wrap the ostrich feather forward to the $\frac{3}{4}$ point and tie down, be careful not to touch the ostrich until after the next step.
9. Spiral wrap the wire over the ostrich feather to the $\frac{3}{4}$ point and ties off.
10. Take a pheasant back feather that has equal length fibers on both sides and cut the stem in the center back to expose a "V" which becomes your legs. Place this "V" on top of the $\frac{3}{4}$ point and tie down with a couple of loose wraps. The legs can be adjusted at this point. Now take a few tighter wraps to secure the legs. Add a small drop of super glue to this $\frac{3}{4}$ point now.



Side View



3/4 View



Top View

(Continued on next page)

Emerging Caddis Pupa (Cont.)

11. Fold the remainder of the pheasant feather back and dub the thorax with the hare's ear to just behind the eyes.
12. Fold the pheasant feather forward over the thorax and secure with a couple of wraps of thread.
13. Lay the remainder of the feather over the gap between the bead chain eyes and secure with a couple of thread wraps.
14. Now fold the feather back between the gap in the bead chain and whip finish and cut off the remaining stem.
15. Super glue this tie off point with a slight amount.
16. Place a drop or two of UV finish on the thorax shell back and cure it with a UV light.

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 meetings.

Board of Directors and Activity Leaders:

President

Doug Jones
president@ffcoc.org

1st Vice President

Auction Chairperson
Jim Edwards
1stvpresident@ffcoc.org

2nd Vice President

Casting Clinic
Denis Higginson

Past President

John Williams

Treasurer

Brian Mayer

Secretary

Alan Ross
secretary@ffcoc.org

Newsletter Editor

Richard Fanning
newsletter@ffcoc.org

Programs - Andy Frumento*

Outings - Lyman Kennedy*

Web Site - Victor Raphael*

Conservation/FFF - John Burns*

Raffle Coordinator - Charlene Hanson*

Membership - Vern Martin*, Melinda Burns*
membership@ffcoc.org

Trout in the Classroom - James Wright*, Melinda Burns*

Historian - Marvin Crocker

Fly Tying - Bill Burns

* = At-Large Member, FFCOC Board of Directors

Support Our Local Fly Shops



Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing Store
2700 W. Orangethorpe Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92833

Hours: Mon-Sat: 9am - 6pm
Sun: Closed

Phone: 714 525-1827

E-mail: info@bobmarriotts.com



His & Hers Fly Fishing Shop
1566 Old Newport Blvd.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Hours: Mon-Fri: 10am - 6:30pm
Sat: 9am - 6pm
Sun: Closed

Phone: 949 548-9449

E-mail: hisher1666@aol.com