

ON THE FLY

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
FLY FISHERS CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY

50 YEARS OF SERVING OUR MEMBERS!



August 2020

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NOTE: During this time of the Corona Virus meetings are being held virtually via ZOOM. Please check your e-mail for instructions.

Website: www.ffcoc.org

FFCOC is Taking Steps to Protect Club Members from COVID-19

Monthly Club Meetings - We will resume regular monthly Club Meetings when government agencies advise us that social distancing and stay at home recommendations are no longer necessary in our area for the general public as well as people in high-risk categories due to age considerations.

Club Outings – All Club Outings and similar activities like training and workshops will be cancelled or delayed until government agencies advise us that social distancing and stay at home recommendations are no longer necessary in our area for the general public as well as people in high-risk categories due to age considerations. In addition, government recommendations at the locations of activities outside of our local will be considered.

Club Communications – It is important to the Board that any concerns or questions that you may have relating to Club functions are addressed. Please reach out to any of our Board members if you have questions or concerns. We will update Club Members via email, the newsletter and the website of any changes in our planned activities.

Alternative Fly Fishing Activities – A lot of us have time available due to social distancing and stay at home recommendations. This is a great time to work on fly tying, practice casting, if you have a safe place to do so, and, most importantly, go through your fly fishing supplies and look for items you would like to contribute to this year's annual auction.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our monthly meetings and other Club functions as soon as we get the green light from the various government agencies. Meanwhile, please be careful and stay healthy.

Denis Higginson
FFCOC President

Membership

Membership Report for August 2020 by Melinda Burns

New Members 2020 = 25

Please help me welcome our newest members this month (July):

Brian Carpenter

Katherine McDowell

Daniel Nassie

Steve Hoffman

(To our new members, I will be mailing out your new member package. If you should have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or email. If you joined after Jan. 2020 and have not received your new member package, please send me an email.)

We currently have 237 active members. This includes all membership types including Life Members.

Just a reminder, even though we are not able to meet in person there are ways to become involved with the club. We are still looking for fly tyers that would be interested in providing a virtual class. Please contact Melinda Burns at 951-415-9920 or membership@ffcoc.org, to let her know you are interested.

I also am still running our Membership Raffle throughout the year. Each time you participate in a Club activity, whether it be online or participating in an event, your name will be entered in to the end of year drawings for prizes. So the more you participate the more times your name goes in the kitty. Good Luck to all.

Fly Fishers International (FFI) Report

by Melinda Burns

To view the most current quarterly report for Southwest Council Fly Fishers International, [Click here](#) to see what they have going on and opportunities you may be interested in.

Some of you are already aware of who FFI is but for those unfamiliar with this organization, here is an brief explanation:

“Fly Fishers International is an international 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Livingston, Montana. Since 1964, Fly Fishers International (FFI) has been an organized voice for fly fishers around the world. They represent all aspects of fly fishing, from the art of fly tying and casting to protection of the natural systems that support healthy fisheries and their habitats, which is essential to the sport. Today, the organization's mission is to ensure the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. They focus on conservation, education, and a sense of community.”

There are two types of memberships:, Individual and Club:

Membership benefits for individuals:

- Preservation of diverse fisheries and their essential wetland habitats that support opportunities to fly fish.
- Enduring opportunities to fly fish for all fish in all waters.
- Access to the FFI Learning Center for educational materials to expand your knowledge and enjoyment of the fly fishing experience.
- Receive all FFI publications, magazine, newsletters, news releases, social media posts, etc.
- Community forums to share, learn and develop new friendships in fly tying, casting and fly fishing.
- Participation in FFI governance and leadership.
- Play a personal role in preservation of the fly fishing legacy.
- Enjoy the satisfaction of supporting the FFI mission.

(Continued on the next page)

Additional FFI membership benefits:

FFI Partners with AJG Affinity Program to Bring Benefits to Members

Flyfisher Magazine

The Loop - The Journal of Fly Casting Professionals

Tying Times

Membership card

Decals

Knowledge that YOU are making a difference for the sport's future

Our partners provide FFI members various discounts on fly fishing goods and services. Some of the benefits are available to all members and some to specialty groups within FFI, i.e. Certified Instructors.

We are an affiliate club. Now you probably ask, so how does that benefit you and the club?

The club is offered affordable insurance programs which include:

Directors and Officers Liability

General Liability

Umbrella Coverage

Hired or non-owned automobile liability coverage.

A Learning Center that includes:

Casting

Conservation

Fly Fishing Skills

Fly Tying

FFI provides grants for conservation and education project to councils, clubs and other organizations that furthering the mission of the organization.

FFI also recognizes our members, through the Awards Program, for their work in conservation and education.

Additional Benefits are:

FFI HW staff support

Access to Equipment Loan Program

Club Mapped and Listed on FFI Website

Access to Speakers Bureau portal

Access to Newsletter Content

Access to Club Leader Report portal

Flyfisher magazine

FFI E-News

FFI ClubWire Newsletter

Local Club list given to all new FFI Members

FFI Calendar & Social Media posting of your events

FFCOC - Auction Corner

August 11th and the auction is 5 weeks away. Remember, Wednesday September 9th via ZOOM! Live Auction and the close of the silent auction. Mark it on your calendars!

We just finished photographing all of the items we have, so we can start building an online catalog for you to peruse and, ultimately, to place your bids. Lots' of really nice items to consider.

Some highlights:

Lots of gently used rods, reels, and fly lines in all shapes and sizes.

Good selection of fly collections (John W, Cheryl, Lyman, Milford, Audrey and more)

Lots of accessories to consider

Artwork: prints, originals, glass work, fly plates.

Cigar Box Guitar, Quilts, Tumblers, oh my..

Rod Combos (New ECHO rod, reel, line, leader, tippet, Marriott Gift Card, AND private casting lessons!

And much more.....

Also, a rumor floating around that there may be a new Abel TR reel with Native Trout anodization..

So, we have a great selection and I think more than enough to have a successful auction (and fundraising).

Thanks to all that have donated. If you don't see some of the items you donated in the auction catalog, please don't be offended. We set aside some items for later gatherings.

Best, Art

Club Meetings

| <u>CLUB</u> | <u>SPEAKER</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>MEETINGS</u> | | |
| <u>WEDNESDAYS</u> | | |
| January 8 | Pat Jaeger | "Keeping it Simple" |
| February 12 | James Garrettson | "Reading a River and Taos Area" |
| March 11 | Eric Kramer | "Kamchatka and Argentina - Out There!" |
| April 8 | Cancelled | |
| May 13 | Chis King (via ZOOM) | "Fishing the Pit, McCloud & Lower Sacramento" |
| June 10 | Jimmy Cheers (via ZOOM) | "Big Browns on the South Holston" |
| July 8 | Chris Leonard (via ZOOM) | "The Magnificent Eastern Sierra" |
| August 12 | | Cancelled |
| September 9 | (via ZOOM) | ANNUAL FUND RAISING AUCTION |
| October 14 | Maury Hatch | "Fishing the California Delta" |
| November 11 | Gary Bulla | "Fishing the Amazon" |
| December 9 | John Williams | "Adventure North" |

NOTES: Club Meetings are held at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim. In the Pavillion except for the Auction in September which is held in the Ballroom unless otherwise notified.
 Board Meetings are held at Santiago Canyon College, Room 206.

2020 Outings

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>DESTINATION</u> | <u>STREAMKEEPER</u> | <u>PHONE</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Feb 8-9 | On the River Trainning Lower Owens | Doug Jones | 714 697-2222 |
| Feb 22 | Jess Ranch Lakes Float Tubing | Lyman Kennedy | 714 742-5865 |
| Mar 16-18 | Pyramid Lake, Nevada | Eric Kramer | 805 984-7202 |
| Mar 21&28 | Thin Blue Line Class | Larry Behm | 949 235-4466 |
| April 4-5 | Buckley Ponds, Bishop, CA | Tom Niedzialek | 714 738-5540 |
| April 19-24 | Green River Cancelled | Tom Sakai | 714 357-1199 |
| Jun 5-7 | Fish Creek, CA Cancelled | Brian Mayer | 562 619-9169 |
| July 10-13 | Hot Creek Ranch, CA | John Williams | 951-236-0862 |
| July 17-20 | Cottonwood Lakes Backpacking | Larry Behm | 949-235-4466 |
| Aug 2-5 | San Juan River, Cancelled | Brian Mayer | 562 619-9169 |
| Sept 21-25 | Loa, Utah | John Williams | 951-236-0862 |
| Sept 28-Oct 3 | Loa, Utah | John Williams | 951-236-0862 |
| Sept 30-Oct 2 | Bridgeport, CA | Paul Nakamura | 310-915-0124 |
| Oct 16-18 | President's Outing, Kernville, CA | Dennis Higginson | 714 544-9908 |
| Nov 10-12 | Pyramid Lake, Nevada | Jim Wright | 714 679-6638 |

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

Loa Utah Outings, 2020

John Williams, Streamkeeper



Deposit \$200 **Non Refundable** to hold your spot forwarded to the guide.
Max number of guests per trip 6

***September 21-25, 2020 Loa, Utah**

Quiet Fly Fisher

One Openings Available

***September 28-October 2, 2020 Loa, Utah**

Quiet Fly Fisher

Two Openings Available

Contact John Williams if interested.

Fishing Trip Reports

Cottonwood Lakes Outing Report

July 17, 2020

By Larry Behm



As each of us grabbed a rock to rest on, Ian accused Chris and me of “breathing in all the oxygen.” None of us had a surplus; at 11,000 feet there really is not enough oxygen to go around. However, the high Sierra meadows, soaring mountains and gem-quality golden waters more than compensated for the searing in our lungs. As our breath returned enough to speak, a group of retired ladies skipped by. When asked, they said the source of their spryness was ginger candy. We questioned if it might have been their lack of backpacks or some other substance in the candy.

Shortly after hiking to the lakes and setting camp, Chris stood at the edge of Lake #3 and exclaimed “Tough hike, but worth it for the pristine High Sierra scenery and killer fishing!” He is a novice fly fisherman that was able to catch double digit Goldens his first time dry fly fishing. Chris said, “ I started hooking them after my second cast!”



COVID caused a some unexpected things this year. A few of our members dropped out of the trip at the last minute until only three of us were left. The Horseshoe Meadows campgrounds were overflowing with too many first time outdoors people. And the Lakes area had about twice as many overnighers as a normal year.

On the first day of the outing we were able to fish Horseshoe Meadow’s streams without seeing any other people. The Golden Trout schooled each of us by flashing across the stream bed and vanishing into any wisp of a shadow whenever we accidentally moved too fast, cast a shadow on the water, or landed a fly too hard.

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The fish in the meadow streams were small, the largest catch was 10 ½", and most were 6-7"; regardless of size, they were the most beautiful. Their golden camouflage with splashes of red, black and green was stunning every time!



Fish in the lakes were much larger, the average probably being around 12". The lake fish required a bit of stealth but readily came to inspect any #12-#14 dry fly. Inducing a take required adjusting one's casts and mends to the gusting winds to ensure a dragless drift. Fast reflexes were required to hook these wild fish. Our sluggish sets were always signaled by a brilliant tail flash and an empty hook.

In the end, each of us felt that the small challenges and discomforts of such a hike heightened our enjoyment of the whole experience, the scenery, the bright stars, and the wonderful Golden Trout!



Hot Creek Ranch Outing Report

July 17, 2020

By Art Prangle

COVID and comraderie-2020 Edition

Well, the ranch was at its most beautiful. Clear cold water, lots of fish, bugs and great rises, not too much wind, clear nights with amazing stars. Good friends, new members, good food. All in all, a great set of factors for a perfect outing. There was just this COVID thing. Everyone tried hard to maintain distance, wear masks when close and in general avoid each other as best as possible. I think the general verdict was that we had a good weekend, probably as best as was possible, but we sure missed the outings of old. And our fearless leader, John, aka Jose, Williams could not make the trip so the lights seemed to go out awful early in the evening.



The fishing was great! The creek has really recovered. Water clear, weeds about normal, and lots of really nice rainbows and browns. The PMD hatch in the mid-morning really set off a frenzy of rises and there were quite a few stories of wonderful fish caught during the blitz. Lots of other good catches throughout the day on caddis, tricos and hoppers. Bringing the fish to the net was tough, as they were very quick to spit out flies and managed well to drag 6X tippet into the weeds, but that's Hot Creek.

We had some new members who had just joined, Katherine and Kristen, and they were having a great time and success with the creek. Jeff Adams was on his inaugural trip to the ranch and caught his first trout on Friday afternoon thinking this was easy.

Scot Lewis took the lead on the Sunday night dinner and put together a wonderful COVID ready meal with salads, garlic bread and condiments that we could take back to our cabins. Jim Edwards and Joe Villa helped cook the steaks to perfection, and as far as I know, no baked potatoes were exploded in the microwaves. Special thanks to Scot for pulling this together.

Thanks to all for braving the elements and participating in the club outing to Hot Creek Ranch this year.

It was wonderful to see people, get some chances to catch up, and to fish one of the most special places.

High hopes for our 2021 trip!

Stay healthy, Art

CONTINUING EDUCATION Fishing Opportunities and Skills Development



—

One of our club's principle missions is to encourage people to go out and fly fish. A big part of that is to have the programs and opportunities to build skills across our membership, especially to those just getting started.

Joe Libeu, life member of our club and a Federation of Fly Fishers Master Casting Instructor and all around tireless ambassador for fly fishing, made a suggestion at our recent Board of Director's Meeting. His proposal was to create more of a structure around mentor outings, skills workshops, casting, fishing different types of waters, and such. It's still in the formative stages but the idea won over the Board pretty quickly.

Places like the Owens River, San Joaquin, stillwaters and spring creeks were ideas for possible outings. What would make these outings different than our normal club outings is that we would limit the number of participants seeking mentoring (first come, first serve on-line registration) and have mentors join for the first half day and then the mentors would go out and fish on their own.

For skills building, we are thinking of creating more opportunities for casting workshops including sessions on intermediate, double-haul, fishing casts and sinking lines casting.

Mentors and instructors will be a critical component of the program's success. We have a list of club instructors for our Casting In The Park sessions and would welcome others to join, but we will also need outing mentors. Let me know if you would like to be a part of the mentor corps (artp@sbcglobal.net).

More information to follow and your feedback will help flush this out details of the Continuing Education Program over the coming months. Please let us know what you think.

We are going to announce our first mentor offering in a separate email for a March 20-22 trip to the Lower Owens. Stay tuned. Registration is not open yet but details will follow shortly.

Best regards,

Art Prangley

Finding Another Paradise - By John Williams

Fishing in Wyoming on the Calton ranch had turned to crap, neighbors were poaching and keeping all they caught. The neighbor upstream built a small dam which stopped the fish from migrating to spawning gravel. I was interested in anything to get out of California and the congested fishing conditions.

John Secor, Jim Edwards and I headed to see what had been told to John is a fishing paradise. We headed to Mesquite Nevada for the night and needed to find dinner so we headed to the casino to get a bite. While there I decided to do a bit of gambling that produced enough to cover dinner, breakfast and a couple additional meals.

Off we went to Beaver Utah and the Butch Cassidy Best Western Motel. We had a room for three, which worked well. We queried the manager where the good fishing was and then to the sporting goods store to pick another brain about the fishing and buy a license.

Off we went on our adventure, as this area was a total new experience for all of us. Up the mountain toward the ski area and the creek that paralleled the road almost all the way up until it crossed the road and had a small lake behind a small dam. We stopped many times to wet a line and John Secor was the first one to nab a nice rainbow. We all managed to catch a few as we made our way up the mountain. We found a small creek that had a great population of browns in it and we satisfied our thirst and headed back to town for dinner and possibly a drink.

Dinner was behind us now and we had seen a tavern in town so we entered, the keeper said are you members? No, I said. She said we could buy a membership for three bucks and that would allow the three of us to come in, we had a couple of drinks and headed back to get some sleep as we had a few more days to fish in the area.

The next day we found several lakes and floated with minimal success and by early evening found us at a small lake where a grand father was teaching his grand son to fish. The midges were on the surface and the grandfather and his charge were not catching anything as we pulled them in on a #20 Griffith Gnat.

I walked over to the lonely pair and said can I help. The grandfather replied sure, I said do you have a clear plastic bubble that we can fill halfway with water? The grandfather said yes and I attached a 5x tippet and a Griffith Gnat. They were off and running, he offered to pay me and I said no, have fun.

The next day we went higher on the mountain and fished a small stream you can hop across but became a major stop for me when I'm in the area. The next year Jim Edwards and I fished the same area again and ventured over the mountain by Panquitch lake and that area, we should have hired a guide but had a few fish and now knew the area much better and where to fish.

That was many years ago and I was searching the Internet for fishing guides in Utah and came across a homespun drawing and advertisement for Quiet Fly Fisher in Loa Utah. I booked a trip with Mike James the guide and the rest as they say is history.

I have been going to Loa Utah for fifteen years now and still enjoy the new locations Mike James has shown me every year. I'm not senile yet to think he is taking me back to locations we visited early on. I will continue to trek to Utah to enjoy both the company and the lack of fishing pressure with an abundance of fish.

Flies That Keep On Giving

By John Williams

During this long stay at home I have been entertaining my self by watching videos of bug life. Ralph & Lisa Cutter have an underwater video about the life cycle of four different mayflies. A great watch seeing their movements and coloration. Thank You Ralph & Lisa for the video it was very inspiring.



Swimming Mayfly



| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Hook: | Firehole 419 Size #16 Barbless |
| Bead: | 2.4 mm Black Tungsten Bead |
| Thread: | Veevus 16/0 Black |
| Rib: | Pearlescent Thread or Silver Wire |
| Abdomen Dubbing: | Camel Dubbing |
| Tail, Back and Wing Case: | Pheasant Tail fibers |
| Thorax Dubbing: | Dark Hares Mask |
| Legs: | Natural Hen Speckled Saddle Feather |
| Cement: | Super Glue Brushable |

Start your thread behind the bead and trap the thread rib or wire rib as you wrap the thread to the bend leaving the rib to your side of the hook. Dub forward the Camel hair to the base of the bead making a tapered body. Your thread should be at the bead and now pull six to eight pheasant tail fibers from the feather and letting the tips expend 1 1/2 the shank length to the rear wrap the rib forward to trap the pheasant fibers in a spiral forward fashion and secure with a few thread wraps behind the bead.

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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.

Board of Directors and Activity Leaders:

President
Denis Higginson

1st Vice President
Terry Roznos

2nd Vice President
Van Lloyd

Past President
Art Prangley

Treasurer
Brian Mayer
Tom Sakai (Asst.)

Secretary
Tom Niedzialek
secretary@ffcoc.org

Newsletter Editor
Richard Fanning
newsletter@ffcoc.org

Programs: Larry Behm

Outings: Lyman Kennedy

Website/Social Media: Doug Jones

Conservation: Larry Behm

Raffle: Vern Martin

Membership: Melinda Burns
membership@ffcoc.org

Trout in the Classroom: Melinda Burns

Fly Tying: Brian Mayer

Fly Fishers International Liason:
Melinda Burns

Member At Large: Jim Edwards

Support Our Local Fly Shops



Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing Store

2700 W. Orangethorpe Ave.

Fullerton, CA 92833

Open Mon.-Sat. 9 am to 6 pm

Closed Sunday

Phone: 714 525-1827

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