

April - 2021

Volume 15, Issue 2



SANTA CLARITA
CASTING CLUB
FLY FISHING



Casting Times

Calendar of Events

Watch for email announcements and also visit the club website for activities that are underway and being planned.





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**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Southwest Council**



The Riffle

by Dick Harris

'You Know You're Getting Better'

As we all know from first hand experience, angling is an enjoyably-frustrating, annoyingly-challenging, and patently-addictable sport. It's the little things that can make a bad day good or vice



versa. We're each always trying to improve on these, and...you know you're getting better when:

- * You break more rod tips on big fish than in doorways.
- * They don't chuckle behind your back at casting clinics.
- * You can understand most of the terminology in Orvis's Annual Fly Fishing Catalog.
- * When rigging up, you get the line through all the guides the first time.
- * You remember to bring your salt water fly box when you get to Rincon Beach at 6:00 am.
- * Your spouse no longer greets you after a fishing trip with "fall in again, honey"?
- * You finally understand that barbless hooks are a lot easier to get out of a trout's mouth . . . and your finger.

- * You don't get worked up over not remembering the biological name for a caddis nymph ('Helicopsyche in the order of Trichoptera' if asked)!
- * You begin to read not just articles on fly fishing but the water you're fishing.
- * You let your subscription to **Entertainment Weekly** lapse for **California Fly Fisher**.
- * When you keep a fly rod in your trunk in case a situation arises.
- * You successfully tie your first woolly buggler and catch a 7" rainbow on it.
- * You trade in your Callaway irons for a Sage 490 4X rod.
- * And, when after a day on the water with no fish seen, hooked, or into the net, you can stop and smile and say, "What an incredible day fishing!"



Membership Renewals

Thanks to all who have already renewed SCCC Membership, but if you have not, this would be a great time to do that.

Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

“I dove into this new offering with gusto—and was well rewarded for my effort. Not only is John Gierach a fly fishing sage, but his sense of humor matches both his wisdom and his experience in throwing flies. He’s my kind of author.”

At the club’s February 20 Yard Sale, I picked up a gently-used copy of *Standing in a River Waving a Stick* by renowned fly fishing author, John Gierach. Intrigued by the title, and having enjoyed several of his earlier books, I dove into this new offering with gusto—and was well rewarded for my effort. Not only is John Gierach a fly fishing sage, but his sense of humor matches both his wisdom and his experience in throwing flies. He’s my kind of author.

That brief introduction leads me to the main point of this month’s “Membership Matters.” One of Mr. Gierach’s parenthetical statements early in the book caught my attention and got me to thinking about our club. He stated, “Many good fly fishers also seem to be very good at something else, too. I’m not sure why, although I have some half-baked ideas.”

Just a few pages later, the author writes, “Ask anyone you

know who’s very good at anything if there’s a shortcut to spending half a lifetime learning the ropes and letting something indefinable slowly sink in. Of course, the hidden truth behind that is, just putting in the time is no guarantee. You also have to have passion and curiosity and then learn how to satisfy both, but at the same time not take it too seriously.”

Fly fishing seems to either bring out the best and most creative and passionate side in us or it helps to develop those very characteristics, plus tenacity. As I pondered this observation that both John Gierach and I have made, I began to think about highly successful people who also fly fish, some of whom include legendary guitarist Eric Clapton; former President Jimmy Carter; former Vice-President Dick Cheney; acclaimed journalist and author Tom Brokaw; consummate actors Harrison Ford, Henry Winkler, and Emma Watson; and the Who’s lead singer, Roger Daltry.

Those character traits—passion, curiosity, creativity, commitment, a desire to constantly learn and be challenged, resolution, and persistence (with a healthy dose of competitiveness thrown in)—seem to be resident in most good fly fishers I know. To test Mr. Gierach’s and my hypothesis, I recently conducted an informal survey of some of the club’s members to determine what, besides fly fishing, they are good at. The results were interesting but not surprising.

Jon Simle is a professional photographer and musician; Dick Harris is an artist, consultant, and well versed in genealogical studies; Ben Franken was a concert pianist; Jonathan Summer is into film making; Aran Dukovna loves golf; Barry Sauter paints and does landscaping and woodworking; Gary Haselbusch works with wood; John Parmenter builds fly rods—bamboo, graphite, and fiberglass; Chris Taylor is a professional artist; and John Malerba excels in gardening when he’s not selling real estate. All of these members will tell you that fly fishing complements their other hobbies and skills and that excelling at anything, including fly fishing, doesn’t happen by taking shortcuts. In fact, when John Gierach says that he has “some half-baked ideas” about why that is, I think he believes that a desire to excel, to drive oneself to succeed by pushing the boundaries, to not rest upon past successes, to remain educable, to seek out new forms of satisfaction and accomplishment, to have to work consistently to improve, and to be

comfortable with being uncomfortable (by learning something new) are some of the reasons why good fly fishers also seem to be very good at something else.

To some degree it reminds me of why accomplished and highly-competitive professional athletes, when they retire, gravitate toward golf. It is so challenging, difficult to master, rewarding, cerebral, and complex that it satisfies that competitive spirit that imbues athletes who have attained the highest levels in their respective sports with a desire to conquer yet another challenge. To a lesser degree fly fishing does that. And similar to golf, you can never master everything in fly fishing—or even more than one or two aspects of this great sport.

So, my hat is off to all of you who excel at and are passionate about fly fishing. To do that, it takes a person with unique character traits and skills and a desire to achieve without resorting to shortcuts. But the rewards derived from fly fishing are certainly more than worth the effort. I’m sure that you agree.

See you at the next [in-person] meeting.



“FISH ARE JUMPING” BY MEAD SCHAEFFER

Gone Fishing!

Jonathan Summer

As I pulled into the Kohl's parking lot, I expected that the day would include sneaking up on fish and jumping over rocks along Upper Piru Creek. The freezing temperatures in the forecast had other ideas. It just took one, "How about the Surf?" comment and Barry and I were off on our way to Ventura.

With only a year of fly fishing for trout and small bass under my belt, the surf was a mystery to me. I hadn't even heard about surf fly fishing until looking at the SCCC calendar. Since then Jon Simle had prepared me for the gear that is needed, but beyond that I was venturing into the unknown. Parking along the road, we began to gear up. Rod, reel, waders, leader, stripping basket, and finally the hand-tied flies from Barry. With that we were walking to the surf.

Emerging from the tunnel, Barry began reading the water and explaining where the drop offs and holes were. To be honest, I didn't follow much of it. All I saw were some waves crashing into the shore. Nevertheless, I walked

down to the water still trying to process what I had been told.

Then on my first cast, everything tangled, and in the matter of a few seconds all my line was under the waves and my fly somehow looped through it all. After a few such incidents I began to get my footing with a solid cast every half dozen times. By the time I looked up Barry was half way down the beach. That brought me to my first lesson: Keep Moving. After a while at this beach it was clear that there was no fish activity. Neither Barry nor I had seen a single fish or a single sand crab, which apparently the fish eat.

Walking back to the car, Barry's initial assessment of the water came back to me and it finally clicked: Surf fishing and river fishing really are not that different. The fish are looking for cover and food, so that is where I need to look. Where on a river the fish are likely hold in seams next to fast moving water, at the surf the fish hold in the slightly deeper holes where the crashing waves provide their food source.



After a quick stop for lunch and a drive-by of productive fishing beaches full of people during the Saturday rush, we began our trek back. Before long Barry noticed an open beach from the highway and before long we were slipping on our waders one last time. This time it was with a little more speed. After a couple of small “bites” or maybe just momentary snags (I am still learning to distinguish the difference), Barry again was way ahead of me.

I had learned my lesson before, but still hadn't implemented it. Walking to catch up with him, I noticed a fishy looking hole, but some kids were playing near the water. A momentary pause weighing the option of catching a fish or hooking a kid, and a stop at this hole was ruled out as a potential fishing spot. Suddenly, as I walked past the kids, a fish zipped into the surf less than five feet in front of me. Just a tiny guy, but the first fish I had seen in the surf was a milestone.

After a few more minutes, Barry and I decided to call it a day. Although no fish were caught, plenty was learned and by day's end I had gained a new friend, a box of hand tied flies, and a desire to get back out in the surf again. I would call that a success.



Tunnel vision: A glimpse of La Conchita Beach from the tunnel beneath the 101 Fwy.



Ed. Note: Many thanks to one of our newest members, Jonathan Summer, for his first contribution to the newsletter. It's good to hear that you're ready to tackle the surf again, Jonathan!

Surf Report

Jon Simle

There have been a few trips to the surf over the past months. SCCC has two new members that are becoming avid surf casters, Jonathan Summer and Steve Watkinson. We have had some promising outings. Perch are still elusive, but we are starting to have days with 3 to 4 hookups of nice size. May and June could be the most promising months of the year. Overcast and cooler weather could be just the ticket for corbina. Our schedule has changed from surf fishing every Friday. If there are any members interested in fishing the surf please call Jon Simle for days that are being planned.



Trips to Utah: An Update from Chris Taylor

Our first Utah trip is now confirmed for **June 8-21**, and our July trip is scheduled from **July 12-22**. Of course if you choose to join us, you're not obligated to stay the entire time.

Here's a list of some of the go-to patterns we like to fish on these outings: Midges, Balanced Leeches, Callibaetis patterns, Hairs Ears, Cal's Bird's Nest, some emerger patterns, Quigley cripples, the ever-productive Wooley Buggers and Chrisbergs. (Pictures can be found on my Facebook page or Michael Peratis can send a picture and menu, if you're interested.)

Something new we discovered is that Goddard Caddis work for Manning Meadows as well as pearl/white buggers.



Connie Bullock
Membership Chair

Our librarian, Bill Creitz, is slowly collecting some great fly fishing books and they are available for your review. Please review the list and don't hesitate to reach out to Bill for one of the books:

Albert, Ken: **Fishing in Southern California – The Complete Guide**

Bay, Kenneth E.: **How to Tie Freshwater Flies**

Beattie, Rob: **The Fishing Handbook**

Bertsch, David Riley: **Death Canyon**

Cederberg, Goran: **World's Greatest Fly Fishing Locations**

Goddard, John & Clarke, Brian: **Understanding Trout Behavior**

Kaufmann, Randall: **Fly tying for Beginners**

Kreh, Lefty: **Fishing Knots**

Leeson, Ted: **The Orvis Guide to Tackle Care and Repair**

Maclean, Norman: **A River Runs Through It and Other Stories**

Meyer, Deke: **Tying Trout Flies 12 of the Best**

Morris, Holly: **A Different Angle – Fly Fishing Stories by Women**

Prosek, James: **Fly-Fishing the 41st**

Reingruber, Michael: **Reflections from 100 Fly Fishers**

Shewey, John: **Mastering the Spring Creeks**

Van Vliet, John: **Fly Fishing Equipment & Skills**

WAPSI Fly Inc.: **Fly Tying Handbook**

Whitelaw, Ian: **The History of Fly-Fishing in Fifty Flies**

**Books are routinely available for lending for a six-week period; extensions to that time period can be accommodated if no other requests for the book are received.*

***Please contact Bill Creitz at billc4writing@gmail.com to borrow, return, or donate books.*

Book Discussion Group

Some of the members asked for the list of books that we've read, are reading, and will read. Below is that list.

Books read:

- 1) Prospecting for Trout by Tom Rosenbauer
- 2) Tying & Fishing Soft-Hackled Nymphs by Allen McGee
- 3) Masting The Spring Creeks by John Shewey

Books to be read:

- 4) Sight Fishing for Trout by Landon Mayer - current read
- 5) Fly Fishing for Trout: The Next Level by Tom Rosenbauer
- 6) On the Trout Stream with Joe Humphreys by Joe Humphreys
- 7) Fly Fishing Strategy by Doug Swisher

These have been some great reads and we've all learned a lot. Hope you can join us one of these meetings. Thank you.

Southwest Council Update

SCCC – Membership Chair/SWC
Club Representative,
Connie Bullock

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA



FLY OR SPIN FOR THE WIN

COVID-19
POSTPONED
FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL
SEE YOU FEB 19, 2022

  

FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Southwest Council

A CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING COMPETITION



**THE ANNUAL LOWER
OWENS RIVER CLEAN UP
IS BEING RESCHEDULED TO**



SATURDAY - MAY 1, 2021

IT WILL INCLUDE THE USUAL FREE
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND RAFFLE OF GREAT
SWAG FOR EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS

Officers

President: Open

1st Vice President: Jamie Barber

2nd Vice President: John Malerba

Treasurer: Jill Field-Duerr

Correspondence: Bill Creitz

Membership: Connie Bullock

Senior Director: Jon Simle

Senior Director: Dick Harris

Junior Director: Rudy Arechiga

Financial: Aran Dokovna

Senior Consultant: Ray Bianco

Club Committees

Casting Clinic: Paul Riegert & Ray Bianco

Communications: Connie Bullock

Conservation: Open

Social Media: John Parmenter

Fly Tying: Rotating Members

Fund Raising: Chris Taylor

Rod Building: Open

Newsletter Editor: John Parmenter

Raffles/Merchandise: Open

Trip Organizer: Open

Club Roster: Connie Bullock

SWCFFF Rep: Connie Bullock

Website Admin.: Greg LaPolla

Our Value Promise

To bring together people of all ages who share a passion to develop their knowledge and skills in the wonderful sport of fly fishing, through education, conservation, and fishing events, while serving as a proud steward of our community, our local waters and wildlife areas.