

# November - 2020

## Volume 14, Issue 6



# Casting Times

## Calendar of Events

**U**pcoming meetings and classes have been postponed, but visit the club website for other activities that are underway and being planned.





# CONTENT

The Riffle  
by Dick Harris

.01

Membership Matters  
by Bill Creitz

.02



Gone Fishing  
by Contributing  
Members

.03





## SWCFFI News by Connie Bullock

.04

## Club News by Connie Bullock

.05



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council



# The Riffle

by Dick Harris

The wildfires ravaging large swaths of our state have been the worst in years, with 2020 leading the list. As the Governor said in September, we need to be prepared for this as the new normal for California. With rising temperatures, increased wind events, dropping humidity, and dry lightning strikes (accounting for 60% of fires), these mega-fires will likely continue while the duration of the fire season expands.

The massive destruction of homes and entire towns clearly impacts ecosystems on land, taking years for communities and wildlife to recover. But what is the short and long-term impacts on aquatic wildlife and the ecosystems they're a part of?

These "pulse disturbances"-wildfires, droughts, floods, erosion — have been part of the changing earth's surface from the start. They all have major impacts on human and wildlife. But the particular issue with wildfires is that their intensity can instigate and inflate these other pulse disturbances. As trees burn and fall, increased sediment erodes into nearby pristine bodies of water. This

new waste material fills in spaces where fish would lay eggs and can, in some cases, damage their gills. Migration routes can also be blocked or altered. The immediate response typically from a major wildfire is a reduction — sometimes significant — in fish populations.

Another important issue is temperature change. Those fish that have fairly precise habitat requirements, such as trout, are most at risk. When plants and trees that shade streams and small lakes are destroyed, the overall water temperature rises. In the monster fires we have seen these past years, the temperatures at ground level — and water level — can be extreme.

Finally, efforts to control wildfires add another element of toxicity to the mix. Fire retardants containing water-soluble ammonium, salt, industrial strength fertilizer, and dyes are needed to halt the progress of a fire and protect communities and wildlife. However, it has been suggested that ammonium phosphate can be harmful to many types of fish, and CalTrout is looking at the negative impact of these chemicals.



Even just an increase of few degrees can have a severe impact on metabolic and reproductive rates of the fish living in these environments, including our prized trout species and populations. Toxins directly related to wildfires transfer into waterways which get redistributed throughout the ecosystem. What

occurs above the ground gets readily translated to changes under surface water. Natural by-products of fire include nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. While these nutrients in small quantities are beneficial to the food base of most fish (like plankton and algae), in excess they can create algae blooms which in turn deprive the water of light and oxygen. This would obviously have a negative impact on the health of fish and other aquatic life.

The good news is that most aqua systems return to a new equilibrium fairly quickly. While it may take decades for some fish populations to recover to pre-fire



levels, in the long-run fish production returns often at even higher levels than before. Recovery depends in great part on an intact ecosystem, specifically in the areas peripheral to the fire damage.

Although the research on this topic is still limited, clearly the fires we as a state are experiencing pose significant challenges for our wild trout, particular those inhabiting shallow creeks and waters that are unable to move into holes and deep pools. The relationship between angler and trout has never been more important and as anglers, we need to be ever-cognizant of protecting the lands we love to fish.

---

## Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

---

**“A little success at the beginning of a new habit—even with the smallest of tasks (or mini-tasks)—will help you begin to solidify your new habit.”**

Recently, I read an excerpt from a book by BJ Fogg, PhD entitled *Tiny Habits*. It's about what it takes to form positive habits. In the book, the author refers to something called "B=MAP (a specific **behavior** happens when **motivation**, **ability**, and a **prompt** converge at the same moment)." In short, if you want to develop a new habit, it can happen when your desire (motivation) matches your ability to accomplish the habit plus an event or reminder (prompt) that causes you to want to undertake that habit.

To successfully develop a good habit, you can reduce its components to smaller, more manageable tasks. If the task is hard, you need high levels of motivation. If the task is easy, you need low levels of motivation. The same holds true for ability. In terms of a prompt (a reminder), however, you

need one or more of the following: external prompt, internal prompt, or an action prompt. These can take the form of an alarm, Post-It Note, a picture in your mind of how success will make you feel, the need to keep a promise you made to yourself or a friend, or even slightly adjusting an existing routine.

Lastly, you've heard the axiom "Nothing breeds success like success." That's both true and motivating when it comes to developing a new habit. A little success at the beginning of a new habit—even with the smallest of tasks (or mini-tasks)—will help you begin to solidify your new habit. Done repeatedly over time, you will develop a new habit. I like the following quote: "When you feel successful at something, even if it's tiny, your confidence grows quickly and your motivation increases to do that habit again...."

So how does forming new “tiny habits” relate to fly fishing? Here’s how: which one of us hasn’t had the desire to become better at something fly fishing related? Maybe you want to become better at tying micro patterns (say, sizes 20 to 24) or soft hackle nymphs; maybe you want to improve your long-distance casting, reach casts, tuck casts, or double-haul casts; maybe you want to develop a regular practice routine whereby you spend 30 minutes casting twice a week; or maybe you want to learn to build bamboo or fiberglass rods and need a practice routine in order to learn to wrap really smooth, near-perfect guides.

Adopting a B=MAP approach might be the ticket. I used this approach when I first started going to the gym. I developed a routine, first on paper, to accomplish the goals that I had set. I then broke those goals into small tasks or tiny habits, divided them up by muscle group and day (say, arms and shoulders on every Wednesday and Saturday), established the minimum number of repetitions and an overall length of time to work out at the gym, and then charted my progress in terms of weight I could lift or number of repetitions I could do without becoming fatigued. It worked, over a three-year period, to greatly improve my strength, endurance, and muscle tone (only to be interrupted by the COVID-19 gym closures).

But you can easily take this same approach with fly fishing. There is plenty of motivation for developing

positive fishing-related habits with the help of the members of the Santa Clarita Casting Club. We have in our ranks expert fly tiers, casters and certified casting instructors, rod builders, and even a net builder—all of whom are willing to help members become more proficient at their chosen “tiny habit.” And even though we are restricted to meeting on Zoom for our formal meetings, you can still fish with and meet members at the park to discuss and practice many of the components of fly fishing.

While we may be constrained in our in-person contacts, we still have alternatives to help us continue indulging in our passion for fly fishing. I hope you will join us on Zoom or in the park if you feel comfortable with the technology or in masks so that we can continue the great camaraderie and traditions that we have established in our club—and the motivation to excel.

I hope that you and your families have a great Thanksgiving—in spite of the crazy circumstances. A motivating quote that I often refer to at this season is as follows: “We have to consciously pursue thankfulness. By doing so, it helps to eliminate thanklessness.” As such, I am very thankful for the friends I have made in the Santa Clarita Casting Club and for all that I have learned from our members.

See you at the next [Zoom] meeting.



# Utah Doesn't Disappoint!

**By Chris Taylor**

**T**he final Santa Clarita Casting Club Utah trip occurred between October 12 and October 17 and included Roger Knudsen, Kevin Larsen, Mike Woll, his two friends, Ty and Vic,

and me. Roger and Kevin first stopped to wet a line at Yankee Meadows, which is located just outside of Parowan. Both found success picking up a few brookies and rainbows.

Late in the afternoon, they moved to Panguitch Lake to give the evening hatch a look see. They found rising fish everywhere as there seemed to be a Callibaetis/midge hatch occurring. Several large rainbows were landed using a midge or Callibaetis pattern beneath an indicator.

I met Kevin and Roger the next morning at Panguitch Lake with Mike Woll, Ty, and Vic in tow. Conditions were sunny with a slight breeze. Kevin, with his pontoon boat and electric motor configuration, had no trouble zipping across the lake, while Roger brought his kayak and followed Kevin across to the weed beds. The breeze kept me from getting out too far, so I concentrated on the inside weed beds—the same area where I had found fish in July. Kevin landed about 25 fish and Roger about half that number. I came up short without a single grab.

After that, Roger decided to try Lee's Ferry, Arizona, while Kevin headed home. I took the remaining three guys to Yankee Meadows Reservoir. Mike and Vic had to leave due to truck issues, while Ty and I stayed and fished. I picked up three rainbows to 16 inches and one brookie that measured 18 inches. Ty landed a 14-inch rainbow on his first time fly fishing!

We then fished Paragonah Reservoir, also known as Red Creek Reservoir. We found a Callibaetis hatch occurring, and the lake was alive with rising tiger trout. Ty and I fished in float tubes while Mike and Vic fished from the bank. We all landed tigers of varying sizes using black Woolly Buggers, Callibaetis patterns, and Rainbow Warrior midge patterns. Most of the fish were in the 14-16-inch range and very healthy.



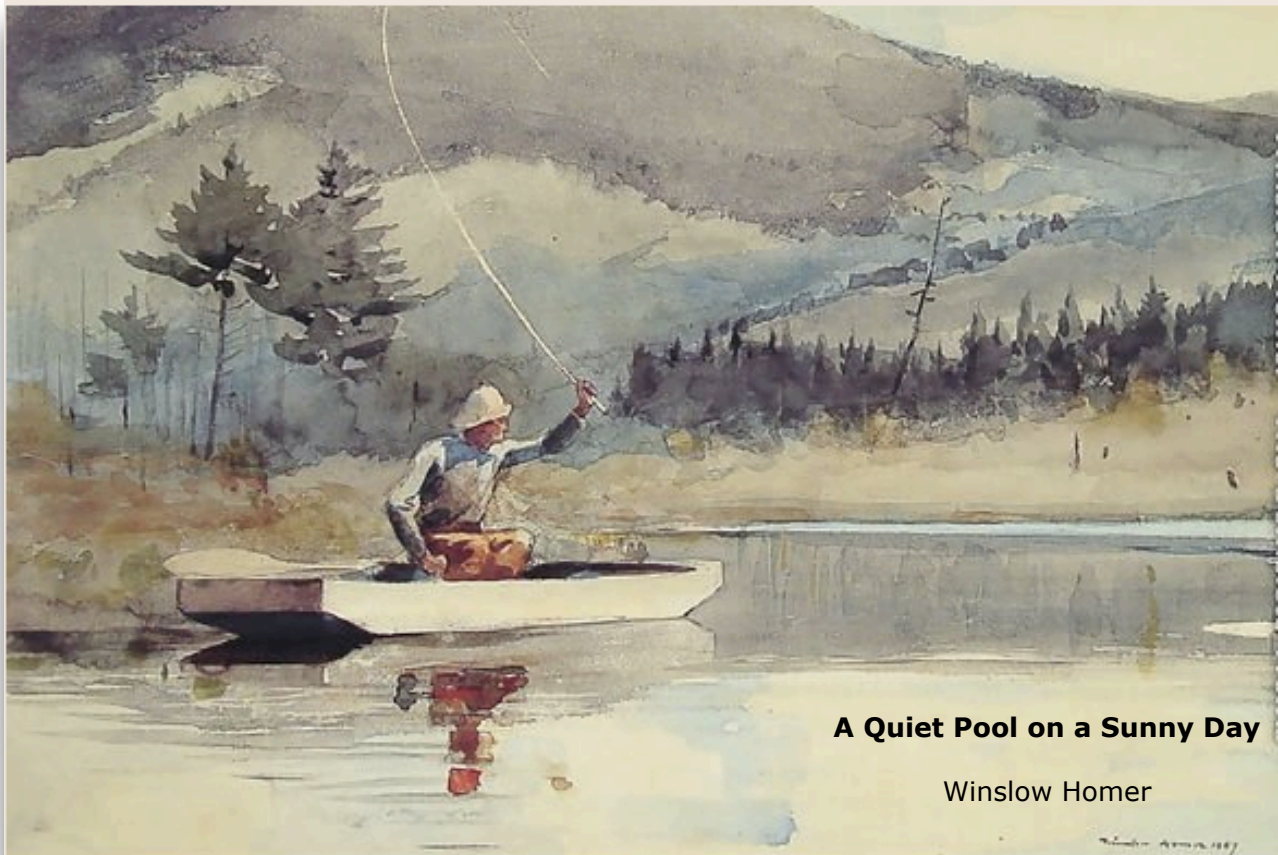
The following day, we went to Panguitch but found it blowing hard with white caps; so the day was a bust. We all split up in different directions. I went to explore above the town of Beaver in the Tushar Mountains and settled on Beaver Creek, a past favorite. I caught only one fish that rose to a dry fly. The stream was low and the fishing was slow.

Mike and I went back to Paragonah Reservoir the following day, expecting the same success as before. Ty and Vic had gone home. While float tubing, I landed seven tigers using *Callibaetis* emergers. Mike fished from shore and landed six tigers using black Woolly Buggers.

On the last day, I was left to my own devices as Mike had gone to Salt Lake City to meet his son. My destination was again Paragonah Reservoir for tiger trout. I arrived and spotted only a few rises. Not to be discouraged, I kicked out dragging a Peacock Bugger. That was the hot ticket as I proceeded to land seven fish, the largest of which was an 18-inch tiger. I had several grabs and several long distance releases during the day. The wind kicked up in the afternoon and forced me to make a hasty retreat.

Though not as many fish were brought to the net when compared to the June and July trips, it was still an enjoyable outing. I look forward to next year's adventure with Stan Houlberg, Bill Creitz, and maybe Roger, Jon Simle, and Kevin.

Tight lines!



**A Quiet Pool on a Sunny Day**

Winslow Homer

***Ed. Note: I received an email recently from Gary Thomas with an attachment of a few killer streamer patterns for the Yellowstone area. Thanks, Gary!***

**John,**

**I attached the picture of the streamer in question. I'm going to tie some up for Yellowstone for next year (June 1 - October 15). I think with some color variation it should work anywhere.**

**I attached a pic of the white streamer I started tying 40 years ago for Yellowstone area. It's a killer in the autumn in the rivers and lakes in the area. I have a guide friend that uses it as his number one fly in the fall.**

#### **Essence of Fly Fishing**

**Fly fishing is much more than casting and retrieving and playing your catch. It's the wind in your face, and the sound of waking birds as the sun peaks over the horizon. It's discovering the magic in each new place, and unlocking the mysteries that lurk above and below the surface.**





# Santa Clarita Casting Club - Flashback

Dick Harris

In one of the initial issues of Casting Times newsletter back in 2005, veteran member and friend, Ray Bianco, wrote this wonderful poem. 'One More Cast' could be Ray's middle name as he has been there for us over the years teaching many the do's and don'ts of proper fly presentation. Thank you, Ray.

## One More Cast By Ray Bianco

A cast. Oh, so fine, but never perfect.  
Is it like trying to reach the Perfection of the Creator, and never  
being able to do so?  
Is it the best one can do? Is it more?  
Is it a standard, and if so, how would I measure?  
Cast...Cast...Cast.  
I'll try it again and again, just one more time.  
Am I, a man, trying to become a machine?  
Is it a contest between you, the rod, and me?  
Am I not superior to you, the rod, an inanimate object?  
Do you not come alive only when I resurrect you from your case?  
Do I not carefully assemble you and dress you with fine accessories?  
Do you mock me?  
Shall I let you sleep?  
I cannot; I must cast you just one more time  
Again and again. . . .





**SCCC – Membership  
Chair/SWC Club  
Representative,**

## **Southwest Council Update**

Some of you may or may not have known Bill O'Kelly of the SWC. He was President in 2018 before he got sick and had to resign. He was an attorney for the Auto Club and in the middle of his career, and too young to leave us at 61 years of age, but cancer does not care about that. He leaves a wife and two teenage children.

When the SWC BOD went through Bill's garage, they were stunned at the amount flyfishing equipment he had, so they decided to place everything on eBay for auction, including his 1200 book collection. The SWC, led by Michael Schweit and a few others doing eBay input, netted over \$6,000 on the first go-around. The family is so appreciative for this additional helpful income.

With the first auction being so successful, and with the continued concerted effort of the SWC BOD, additional remaining items are now priced, categorized, listed and ready for another auction. The next eBay event is scheduled to start on November 29 at 4:00 PM. As soon as login information is set up, it will be sent to the membership.



## **Club Renewal**

It is hard to believe we are crowding into 2021! Most of us want to say GOODBYE to 2020 for sure and hope this New Year will be a little better. Come this January we begin membership renewals for the 2021-22 season. Although our expenses are down as a club, we still have website, post office, FFI & domain dues, and other financial commitments we need to maintain throughout the year. If you can renew with the club, thank you. If you choose not to renew your membership, please know you are welcome back any time. We really want to keep all of our members onboard with continued Zoom meetings. There are still a lot of flyfishing activities and events going on across Southern California throughout this virus period, so I hope you chose to stay with us. Happy holidays and stay safe!



## Officers

**President:** Open

**1st Vice President:** Tom Gibson

**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.