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The dinner meeting will be held at the Monterey at Encino, a dinner/meeting venue attached to the Sepulveda Golf Complex at 16821 Burbank Blvd, Encino, CA 91436. We have moved to the smaller room next to the bar by the golf course. No-host cocktail hour starts at 6:30, dinner can be ordered at any time and is 7-8, and the speaker presentation begins at 8.

IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 6:30 PM

FLY FISHING IN LOCAL SALTWATER with Michael Schweit

by Marshall Bissett

After presentations on Yellowstone and the UK, our June speaker brings us much closer to home. If you're tired of long drives to the Sierra or Kernville, the Pacific Ocean might become your next fly rod destination. The Channel Islands and Catalina abound with calico bass, yellowtail, white sea bass and barracuda and are a short boat ride from Oxnard or the South Bay. If you haven't seen the backing on your fly reel lately, this could be the program for you.



Our presenter, Michael Schweit, known to many of you as the ex-President of the Southwest Council of FFI, has been fly fishing these waters for 30 plus years. His local charters have been a training ground for trout fishermen eager to expand their species portfolio. His program will cover the gear you will need, the clothing, footwear and even a guide to avoiding sea sickness.

(Program continued on next page)

IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: MICHAEL SCHWEIT (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

Born in the San Fernando Valley, Michael's angling career began early: "I started fishing with my father at around the age of 6. As he was somewhat frugal (cheap), we would go to what we now call "Pay-to-Play" venues like Sportsmen Lodge (right on Ventura Boulevard in the heart of the San Fernando Valley) and as they charged you for any fish you caught, he would crimp our barbs. We said "Oops" a lot to the fish manager when fish got off our line.



After the draw of those first tugs, I got my dad to teach me how to cast and soon after, we were off to the Kern River. I caught my first river trout there and promptly "released" him into the water in my attempt to place him on the stringer. Catch and release from the start.

My father, and later my mother, loved

saltwater fishing and once I was old enough, I started fishing the barges that used to be anchored off our coast. From there, I graduated to half day boats, then full day and finally multi-day trips out of San Diego. I caught my first albacore at 12 and never looked back."

He learned to fly fish from Neal Taylor who ran a teaching program at UCLA, paid his dues catching trout on the Owens and Hot Creek and joined Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers. At a meeting, he asked visiting speaker Lefty Kreh if you could catch albacore on the fly. When Lefty told him "You can catch ANYTHING on a fly," new horizons opened. In 2011 he set the IGFA world record for a fly caught white sea bass and has landed albacore, yellowfin and dorado on the charters he runs out of San Diego and Oxnard.

A dedicated adventurer, Michael has tested his salt skills in Baja, Ascension Bay, Xcalak and the Bahamas. His preference for DIY (unguided) flats fishing has sharpened his stalking and casting skills. Well known for what his friends call his "flyangelism," Michael organizes Special Events for the Southwest Council and is devoted to introducing newcomers to the sport.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

It's a pleasure, after such a long time, to talk about happy events, recent and soon to come.

The most recent were our May dinner meeting, with Charles Jardine on what he insists is his last lecture tour to America, and the Southwest Council's FlyBuy at the Long Beach Casting Club. He also tied flies and sold some of his wonderful art work at the Fisherman's Spot. I have a marvelous drawing of Hot Creek Ranch that he did on a previous trip.



Charles' talk about the rivers and streams around the London area was informative, funny and self effacing, as he seems always to be. I hope to go there and fish with him one day.

The FlyBuy was well attended, with folks from many of the clubs gathering to see outstanding fly tying, casting instruction, browsing the large array of previously enjoyed gear (read: cheap) for sale and generally enjoying being together. Charles, ever the

good sport, gave a wonderful lesson on how to teach casting, even donning an inflated shark for a while. He is the epitome of how not to take yourself too seriously; at one point I spied him on the porch of the clubhouse handing out sodas. I joined him and offered to take over but he remained while we continued to dispense drinks.

Soon to come are the annual Hot Creek Ranch outing at which I have commandeered Cabin 1 as befits your President, probably for the last time. I plan to continue to host drinks and socializing at the end of the day; I hope many who are there will join us and make this a tradition.

Next up will be the GSO, rechristened the Great Summer Outing since it doesn't follow an ITFF for the second year, a distinction I hope will be changed next year. We will have excellent hosted outings by volunteer members as well as on-stream entomology sessions arranged by Rick Russo. These are great opportunities to learn and to share knowledge and experience. I hope they are well attended, but you needn't do so if you just want to go fishing.

Finally, I have proposed that we consider adding some trips out of the area to our schedule. In past years these have been arranged independently by our wonderful friend, the late Jack Jonathan, and others, to places like the Big Horn and Soaring Eagle. I would like to do some of these as part of our club activities; it has been suggested that other clubs have more of these than we do, and they are a draw for new members. I know that they helped me to get to know and learn from our members as I started out on this great adventure. Please call or send me your suggestions about where we might go, and particular lodges, guides or outfitters you have used that might be appropriate for us.

Finally, I can really wish you all Tight Lines!

GREAT SUMMER OUTING (GSO) INFORMATION: JULY 22-24



Registration is now available for the GREAT SUMMER OUTING (GSO) taking place in Mammoth Lakes the weekend of July 22-24. Thanks to the efforts of your fellow members, we now have a terrific selection of trips on Friday and Saturday. There will be outings to Big Springs, Dana Fork and Lyell Creek in Yosemite, the San Joaquin and Hot Creek. The weekend culminates with the barbecue dinner on Saturday evening.

In addition to our many fishing outings that weekend, this year we have a special event. Robert Younghanz, known as “The Bug Guy” will be doing special events both Friday and Saturday. This will be an exceptional opportunity to really try to understand the various insects that fish eat upon which we model our flies. There will be a short didactic session first thing in the morning and then the group will go to the river and actually collect and identify the various insects that are hatching during the course of the day. More details are available on the SPFF website. There will be a \$35.00 fee (payable at the time of registration) for this class which includes all the materials needed.

Also, a reminder that we have reserved a group campsite at Shady Rest Campground in Mammoth Lakes for the weekend starting on Thursday.

The Saturday night barbecue will be at the Breakfast Club in Mammoth Lakes at a cost of \$35.00 per person (Also payable at the time of registration).

Looking forward to seeing you in July.

Jim Fleisher
Outings Chairperson

FLY TYING

by Michael Peratis

SPFF has a long tradition of providing educational opportunities for club members and the community at large. A major program that we offer is fly tying. I took the club's Beginning Fly Tying Class many years ago and was fortunate to have Steven Fernandez as my instructor. I've been involved with our fly tying group at some level ever since and it's been a great experience. For many many years, your club has held fly tying meetings weekly...I know of no other club doing that...most meet monthly or twice a month.

For way too long COVID-19 had kept us from meeting in person. Now, for a couple of hours on most any Wednesday evening, club members and friends get together in person and on Zoom to tell each other fishing stories, (some are even true), and to tie flies. We have talented tiers who take turns each week teaching a fly pattern, some are easy, some not so easy. It's fun stuff and having a good time while we learn contributes a lot to the success of our program.

Tom Wright updates the Event Calendar on our website with news about upcoming fly tying meetings – click on the date entry for a link to complete meeting information and contact me at education2@spff.org to get all the details you need to join our group in person or on Zoom. Fly tying is fun – catch a fish on one you've tied!

MEMBERSHIP

by Jay Bushore

The members of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers look forward to meeting you. We hope to get to know you better at the monthly dinner Meetings, in our educational programs and on the water. New membership signup is at [spff.org/New Member Signup](https://spff.org/New_Member_Signup).

SPFF always welcomes new members. Please welcome and introduce yourselves to our newest member:

William Cerezo

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SPFF PICNIC: AUGUST 14

We hope to see you at our annual club picnic which serves as our August meeting. We will be returning to Carpinteria. There will be free food and beverages to enjoy with friends while you escape the Valley's heat. Rincon Beach Park has shade, picnic tables, real bathrooms, an outdoor shower, and convenient parking. We will be outdoors with cool ocean breezes.

Watch this newsletter for more information as the day approaches.

CASTING CORNER

by Jody Martin, SPFF Secretary and FFI SWC Casting Director

Answer to last month's questions: in bold

1. Because most trout species are considered "cold water" fish, feeding is, generally speaking, most likely within which range of temperatures?

- a. about 20 to 34 degrees F (- 7 to 1 degrees C)
- b. about 35 to 49 degrees F (2 to 9.5 degrees C)
- c. about 50 to 68 degrees F (10 to 20 degrees C)**
- d. about 70 to 85 degrees F (21 to 29 degrees C)

2. Which of the following fly fishing targets are not salmonids?

- a. brown trout
- b. permit**
- c. tarpon**
- d. sockeye salmon
- e. Does it matter?

3. Which of the following "trout" species are actually "char"?

- a. rainbow trout and golden trout
- b. brook trout and bull trout**
- c. cutthroat trout and Apache trout
- d. brown trout and coastal cutthroat trout
- e. none of the above are char; all are true trout

4. In terms of freshwater fly fishing, which are the three most important orders (groups) of insects?

- a. grasshopper, ants, scuds
- b. midges, mosquitos, dragonflies
- c. moths, stoneflies, crane flies
- d. mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies**
- e. none of the above

5. A false cast

- a. can be used to gauge distance and direction**
- b. can be used to dry off a dry fly that has started sinking**
- c. is a cast used to fool fish into thinking a hatch is on
- d. is the best way to load your rod

This month's question:

Name three things that have to be done differently as you increase the amount of line that you are casting as you go from 30 feet to 50 feet. (Adding additional line does not count as one of the things you have to do; that's a given.)

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE

Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	1
Board Meeting	2
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	4
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	8
Hot Creek Ranch Weekend	10-13
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	15
Dinner Meeting and Program ("Local Saltwater Opportunities" with Michael Schweit)	16
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	22
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	29

JULY

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	2
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	6
Board Meeting	7
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	13
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	16
Summer SWC Quarterly Meeting	16
Dinner Meeting and Program ("DIY Fishing the West - 30 Days on the Road" with Heather Hodson)	19
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	20
GSO - Great Summer Outing	22-24
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	27

AUGUST

Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	3
Board Meeting	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	6
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	10
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	20
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	24
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	31

WHISKEY IS FOR DRINKING; WATER IS FOR FIGHTING

by Debbie Sharpton

I want to take the time this summer to share information on water and what we collectively can do to make a difference. My goal is to make our voice stronger in the politics of water management for the environment. Please share your thoughts with me in any manner of communication, I want to hear from you.

If you haven't already, or maybe it's just time to revisit it again, I am appealing to all of you to take a look at your landscaping and how much potable water you use to maintain it. It seems our voice is weakened in the state's water management arena when we don't place a value on the use of potable water in a semi-arid environment. Place a value on environmental uses!

I spend time on local water management. Our region seems to be failing at conserving outdoor water use. There is a finite amount of water, and if we as fly fishers support significant reductions in outdoor water use our lobby efforts in Sacramento to give more water to the environment may have a larger voice.

- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District imports 100% of its water supply. It delivers water to 70,000 households. A survey conducted in the LVMWD service area shows that nearly 70% of the water served is used outdoors, primarily for landscaping.
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power imports about 50% of its water supply, and 50% of the water served is for outdoor use. LADWP serves 4 million people.
- Statewide, residential use puts 50% of potable water delivered on landscaping.

What you can do to make our fish voice louder:

- Remove decorative turf areas. Decorative turf in all settings, not just industrial and commercial, needs to stop. Lawns consume 40-60% of landscaping water.
- Install drought tolerant mediterranean plants. If you install local native plants you will be helping to protect our unique environment, found on only 2% of Earth.
- Reuse your water more than once. Install a grey water system in your home.
- Support Pure Water Projects, where highly treated water is sent back into the potable water distribution system. I am aware of one in San Diego, Orange County and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Here is an overview of the State Water Project:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/52dc0a1a3ded44c9b6d33a804fdd260f>

(Editor's Note: This article also appeared in the June edition of the SWC newsletter)

WEST FORK RECOVERY REPORT

by Tom Wright

On April 1 the US Forest Service reopened the West Fork San Gabriel River for recreation, but only on weekends and federal holidays. The West Fork Road, as in the past, is open only for pedestrians, cyclists and authorized vehicles. The road is off limits for everyone on weekdays due to a Public Works project to remove sediment from Cogswell Reservoir. This project is expected to continue into 2023.

The area has been closed for the last 18 months following the Bobcat fire. I recently had the opportunity to go into the canyon to see first-hand how the area is recovering. Sadly, the news is not good. When you first enter the canyon, except for the handiwork of graffiti vandals, the area looks relatively unscathed. The water level is very low, little more than ankle deep in most places. As you proceed further into the canyon, damage from the fire and subsequent debris flows becomes more



evident. While low growing vegetation has recovered nicely, the canopy of trees that once shaded the stream through most of its length has been reduced to tall stumps, with the occasional lone tree or patch here and there that somehow managed to survive the flames.

The debris flow that occurred during the winter rains have



WEST FORK RECOVERY REPORT (CONT.)

drastically altered the character of the stream. The effects can be seen from Glen Camp, at the upper end of the canyon where it is most severe, to the confluence with the North and West forks six and a half miles downstream at Hwy 39. The streambed, once a classic mix of riffles, runs and pools with occasional pocket



water is now channelized between berms of sand and gravel and in some sections just ribbons of water flowing through mud flats. With the exception of a few downed trees, the stream is pretty much devoid of structure or aquatic vegetation.

The fishing platforms, designed to provide stream access for disabled persons, are mostly buried under tons of mud and gravel. The concrete pathways leading to the platforms simply disappear into the mud. In some cases, not even the three foot high railings are visible. Wide mud flats now separate the platforms from the stream channel that

used to flow directly below them.

Even after 18 months, the healing process has only just begun. It may be several years before the West Fork becomes a viable fishery again.



STREAMSIDE ENTOMOLOGY AT GSO

by Rick Russo

This year's GSO (Great Summer Outing) will add a new activity: streamside entomology. The teacher is Robert Younghanz, an expert on the topic. Working in pairs on either Friday AM or Saturday AM, up to 20 participants can attend each class. There will be a 1 hour introductory lecture in Mammoth Lakes Then, we will drive to either the Upper Owens or other stream in Long Valley where each pair of participants will learn proper usage of a high quality seine net to collect, preserve and label nymph specimens. Once specimen collection is complete, Robert will identify and discuss these trout foods and offer fly patterns to emulate them.

Prior students find this learning venue to be more engaging, and makes the learning "stickier". In addition, it teaches a method of stream sampling, useful before blindly casting non-productive fly patterns.

Robert Younghanz is a native central Californian with expertise in aquatic entomology, including study, research and curation of bugs internationally and his home waters in southern Colorado. He teaches this science at Colorado State University and two community colleges. Additionally, his Colorado Fly Fishing Guide Academy has transformed many anglers into professional guides. He has described several new insect species as part of his published research and writes for Field and Stream's "Fly Talk" and TROUT Magazine. He is featured speaker at many venues across the U.S. and is known for his DVD: The Bug Guy: Entomology for the Fly Fisher. For more info, see: www.the-bug-guy.com.



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