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## **IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

**6:30 PM social hour** (no-host drinks,  
order dinner, raffle, club announcements)

**8:00 PM speaker presentation**

## **FLY FISHING AS A PLATFORM FOR CHANGE with Beckie Clarke**

by Marshall Bissett

Every piece of water we fish, even our most familiar home waters, changes us a little. Often our expectations don't match reality, or our memories play tricks on us. Some new destinations become favorite places to return to while others fall into the 'never again' file. For our November presenter, Beckie Clarke, these destinations have molded her outlook on life. Her program will take us on a voyage of discovery to the countries that have shaped her career and brought her to the present day. In her words: "Everyone is fishing for something, and my program shares all aspects of what life as a gypsy angler looks like in different seasons and how we can flow with it all and use it as a platform for something bigger than ourselves." While there will be



(Continued on next page)

## IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: NOV 17 (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

enough detail to satisfy the techy anglers, the bigger picture promises to be so much more than dry discussions of technique and hero shots. Beckie will introduce the tips and concepts that have helped introduce young people into our sport – something I know every Club will welcome.



Beckie was born and raised in British Columbia, Canada. Fly fishing runs deep in her roots and her childhood was spent fishing the rivers, lakes, and coastal waters of BC with her dad and 2 older brothers.

A career in the outdoors was inevitable and she laid her education and career path to be the foundation for her dreams. She studied Adventure Tourism Business Management at College of the Rockies and then headed north to the steelhead rich waters of

Smithers, BC where she continued her education at Northwest Community College immersing in Wilderness Guiding Training with a major in Fly Fishing.

The dry fly fishery of Fernie, BC captured her heart and for 17 years she was integrated in the Elk Valley fly fishing industry. Working for local fly shops and guiding for several years before starting 2 of her own companies at once. A fly fishing operation and a property management company alongside each other which allowed her to fish in the summer and ski powder in the winter.



A true entrepreneur Beckie put everything she had into her own companies.

She taught fly fishing, fly tying and entomology classes at the College of the Rockies, started a local woman's fly fishing club, headed kids learn to fly fish programs and would donate her time raising money for local charities.

After hosting saltwater trips to the Bahamas Beckie was looking for a new destination and inquired with Fly Fish Guanaja; a saltwater fly fishing lodge in Guanaja, Honduras. The owner Steve Brown a Colorado fly fishing guide and her ended up falling in love and joined forces together. They host international fly fishing trips, run both Fly Fish Guanaja and their non-profit organization Fish For Change.



After their 3rd baby Beckie sold Fernie Fly Fishing and now focuses on Fly Fish Guanaja and Fish For Change while residing in Colorado. A journey through fly fishing in many seasons of life Beckie is excited to share how she has shifted to using fly fishing as a platform for change.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

I'm writing this month's column from my hotel room in Bishop, where I've come to fish with my SPFF friends while some of us take the Nymphing Clinic, which I did last time (not that I became an expert tight line nymph, but that's on me). The weather is absolutely glorious; blue skies, temp in the 60's during the day high 30's at night. It's so refreshing to be out of the LA heat that I would drive up here just for that. We have 8 students for the clinic, a respectable number, and an undetermined number of members out and about. We



will meet for happy hour on Friday night at the Brewpub, and have our traditional dinner at Astorga's on Saturday. It is so good to see normal club activities resuming. I wish that more of us would make the time to come, but I'm hopeful that they will as the year progresses.

Our nominating committee has had its first meeting to consider Board positions for the coming year. It's not too late to throw your hat in the ring. All positions are open for consideration but the most pressing are Secretary, the person who takes notes at the Board

meeting, and Vice President, the person who will help the President and possibly be considered to follow in that position in a couple of years. Our Treasurer, Mike Hembree, has been dutifully keeping the books for many years and would love to be replaced, or at least have someone to groom to take over when ready. The same goes for Education Co-chair, Conservation Chair, Programs Chair, Women's Programs and the rest of it. We can have a number of At Large members as well, who can see how the Board operates before committing to a Chairmanship. It's really not hard or very time consuming; it just requires a desire to see the Club continue grow and diversify in a healthy way. If you aren't sure what the job entails, feel free to call me or Vice President Bernie Ecker to chat. We promise not to pressure you into a decision, but you really could use your help.

Once more, I ask that you think about places to have more Club outings, where you may have fished before and where a group trip would be appropriate. Our Program Chairman, Jim Fleisher, can help you with arrangements.

Tight Lines!



(Gene Mahn at the Lower Owens)

## DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President .....	Richard Ress
Vice President .....	Bernie Ecker
Secretary .....	Jody Martin
Treasurer .....	Mike Hembree
Calendar Maintenance.....	Tom Wright
Communications.....	Bill Luddy
Conservation .....	Bill Luddy
Development Chair .....	Rich Hoffman
Education.....	Rick Russo
Education .....	Michael Peratis
Head Fly Casting	
Instructor.....	Marshall Bissett
Head Fly Tying	
Instructor .....	Michael Peratis
Librarian .....	Tom Wright
Membership .....	Jay Bushore
Newsletter Editor .....	Ed Swanson
Outings .....	Jim Fleisher
Programs .....	Marshall Bissett
Raffles .....	Steve Esgate
Special Projects.....	Glenn Short
SWCFFI Representative .....	Tom Wright
Technical Advisor.....	Aran Dokovna
Web Master .....	Cece Rubin

## 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](http://spff.org/New Member Signup).

Please welcome and introduce yourselves to our newest members:

Dustin Hayward  
Greg Brake  
Richard Fung  
James Gill  
Randall Mullins

## SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

Beginning Fly Tying Class.....	2
Board Meeting (via Zoom).....	3
FFI Virtual Expo .....	4-6
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	5
Beginning Fly Tying Class.....	9
Beginning Fly Tying Class .....	16
Dinner Meeting and Program ("Colorado River Fishing" with Beckie Clarke) .....	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	19
Beginning Fly Tying Class.....	23
Beginning Fly Tying Class.....	30

### DECEMBER

Board Meeting (via Zoom).....	1
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	3
Beginning Fly Tying Class.....	7
Double Haul Ball: Long Beach Casting Club.	10
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom) .....	14
Dinner Meeting and Annual Awards Presentation .....	15
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	17
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom) .....	21
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom) .....	28

### JANUARY

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	7
Dinner Meeting and Program ("Northern California" with Chris King).....	19
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	21
SWC FFI Winter Quarterly Meeting .....	21



# OUTINGS REPORT

by Jim Fleisher

A small group of us recently spent a weekend at Hot Creek Ranch. Richard Plunkett and Neal Hoffberg came down from Washington to join Neal's brother, David, Jeff Work and myself. It was a rather interesting weekend. Weather in Mammoth in October can be summer or winter all on the same day! Temperatures dropped as low as 14 degrees and the wind was howling. A cold front came through on Saturday and by evening it was snowing. Needless to say, the fishing was even more of a challenge than usual on the Ranch. However, it was great getting together with old friends. We took advantage of Richard and he taught the fly-tying class Wednesday evening.



Now on to new business. By the time you read this, the Fall Outing and Nymphing Clinic will have just taken place. I plan on reporting on that in the December newsletter.

Our next major outing is the Super Bowl (or Pre-Super Bowl) depending on the weekend in February. At the present time I do not have firm dates because we are trying to coordinate this outing with our (finally) Introduction to Fly Fishing course which will be at the same time. Stay tuned and your wonderful Board of Directors will decide on November 3. I will get the word out as soon as possible.



On another note, and to follow up on what Richard Ress, our president, has previously said, if there are any places that members have a burning desire to go, let me know. Out of state trips are a bit tricky to arrange because of the travel and costs involved, but we can try. Other places in California are also welcome. Let me or Richard know.

## FLY TYING NEWS

by Michael Peratis

**BFTC** ~ After missing 2021 thanks to Covid, our Beginning Fly Tying Class is back on track with seven eager students and fourteen dedicated volunteer instructors and assistants. Our weekly hybrid tying sessions are on hold for the duration of the class but are scheduled to resume December 14.



Students & Instructors enjoying Chinese dinner before class

**FTHP&SGE** ~ Chief organizer and audio guru, Smoother Smyth is returning to us from Oregon once again to coordinate and oversee the world famous ***Fly Tier's Holiday Party & Silly Gift Exchange!*** We'll be having a sit down seasonal dinner at Monterey at Encino on Saturday, December 10th. If you haven't attended this annual event in the past you've missed out on SPFF's most exciting and entertaining evening! Details will be available soon on our website and via email blasts. All members and guests are welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

## THE SPFF MEDIA SPECTACULAR NIGHT

by Glenn Short  
[specialprojects@spff.org](mailto:specialprojects@spff.org)

The clock is Ticking!

You still have six weeks to prepare a slide show or video for our Media Night at the December 15th dinner meeting. We still need a few more videos or slide shows of your adventures for our program. If you have questions, please email or call me.

We're looking forward to seeing where you've been and what you've been catching.

Even if you can't submit a show, be sure to come to the meeting anyway—we miss seeing you!



# CASTING CORNER

by Jody Martin, SPFF Secretary and FFI Southwest Council Casting Director

There is a lot going on in the casting world these days! Be sure to see the Southwest Council monthly newsletter for casting activities at all clubs in the SWC, and join us on the first and third Saturdays at Balboa Lake for our free casting clinics! Here are some other upcoming events:

## FFI Expo is Here!

The annual FFI Expo, which will be virtual again this year, is taking place Friday, November 4, through Sunday, November 6. There are a lot of fly casting sessions, including everything from how to hold a fly rod through advanced techniques for teaching casting to others. There is sure to be something there for everyone! Registration for the Expo is \$25, and some of the sessions have an additional cost associated with them.

You can register at: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Virtual-Expo>

I'm hosting a session titled "**Why We Fish**" on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 2:00 pm PST, that focuses on the larger reasons behind our fly fishing, along with casting legend Macauley Lord and MCI Bruce Williams. This one is free, and I'd love to see you there!

## Double Hall Ball

Mark your calendars as well for Saturday, December 10, for the Double Hall Ball at the Long Beach Casting Club. This Southwest Council event is a saltwater-themed day full of casting demonstrations and lessons, fly tying, panel discussions, and everything relating to salt water on the fly. You won't want to miss it!

## This month's casting questions:

### Multiple choice

1. In fly fishing, the word "drag" can refer to:
  - a. the braking action provided by the reel to resist line being pulled out
  - b. the fly drifting unnaturally on, or in, the water, affected by the line
  - c. movement of the caster's hand in the direction of the next cast
  - d. all of the above
  - e. none of the above
2. In fly fishing, the word "drift" can refer to:
  - a. continued movement of the rod after the stop in the direction of the current cast
  - b. the way a fly floats on the water
  - c. movement of the rod immediately prior to setting the hook
  - d. a and b but not c
  - e. none of the above

### True / False

1. Slack line should be kept to a minimum except in two types of casts: the double haul and the reach cast.
2. The difference between a cast and a mend is whether the line is repositioned before or after the forward stop.
3. You are casting to three targets at 20, 30, and 40 feet. As distance to the target increases, the cast should have a corresponding change in trajectory such that the backcast becomes increasingly lower.

# FISH TALES: THE TROUT AND THE SNOWMAN

by Bennett J. Mintz

My friend Forrest Mulvane worked in the PR department of Western Airlines. At that time, Western (later merged into Delta) flew to West Yellowstone via Salt Lake City and Idaho Falls. I'd depart LAX at 7 a.m. and be in West right around noon. Forrey could put me on a "comp" list every few weeks – he had me listed as an outdoor writer – and I took every advantage of his generosity.

I knew a couple of low-priced motels that generally had a single open even in the busiest of times; or sometimes I'd stay in the "guide shack" provided by Bud and Pat Lilly behind their store for nights when guides were too tired or too drunk to drive back to wherever they called home. It smelled awful and looked worse.

Early one season – about the second weekend in June – I caught a hop up, bummed a wreck of a car from Greg Lilly and set off to fish the Madison River. It was cold, windy, snowy and not a very good time to be shuffling around the Madison looking for the *baetis* hatch. But I persisted.

I was right at Madison Junction about midway out into the river (the Madison in the park is "crowned" so that while it might be quite deep along the banks, it can be comfortable wading the further out you get.) Suddenly I became aware of a lot of noise behind me.

A motorhome had pulled into the turnout and a family had spilled out to watch me fish. It was obviously a grandpa, grandma, grandchildren and maybe a widowed aunt all gawking at me. "Granpa, granpa, granpa," hollered an 8- or 9-year old. "That man is fishin' in the snow! It's snowin' and that man is fishin'."

The grandfather surveyed me for a minute and then let loose with the sum of his intelligence. "He's a damn fool. You cain't ketch no fish when it's snowin', the river is too close to the road and you damn sure cain't ketch no fish with a fly when it's cold enough to freeze snot."

They were perhaps 80 feet away from me, but in the cold air and with their hillbilly twang bouncing off the water, I could hear everything just as plain as day.

I had already caught 6 or 8 12- to 14-inch trout in the previous hour. But the old geezer was right about it being cold enough to freeze snot and I was ready to head for town and a tumbler or two of Jack at one of the local pubs. As fate would have it, at that instant I saw a very fine rise about 10 feet beyond my ability to cast. I inched forward another step or two – the water was just below the top of my Seal-Dri waders – and carefully false cast an #18 blue wing olive twice, then let it settle about four feet above where I'd seen the rise.

Just as I knew the sun was going to set, that the Yankees would probably win the pennant and that God made little green apples, I knew for sure I had that brown trout. The fly drifted only a foot or two and POW!

It was much larger than I thought it was going to be. The fish headed downstream and my Medalist reel chattered. I tried to follow it a bit, but I was cold, stiff and mighty feared of taking a dip in that freezing Madison River. So I pretty much stood my ground and after a few minutes, the fish slid into my net.

At the instant I'd struck the fish, the kid had yelled, "He got one! He got one! Granpa, he got one!" The kid kept up the narration at the top of his lungs during the entire fight during which time one and then the other family member took turns taking pictures of me fighting that big brown trout in the midst of snow flurries.

As I netted the fish, I measured it. Just shy of 20-inches, it was. And with that I turned to face my audience, slipped the hook from the brown's jaw and let her slide back into the river.

The kid went stark, raving nuts. "Granpa, he let it go! Granpa, he let it go! Granpa, he let it go!" the little guy screamed over and over.

The grandfather surveyed the scene and summed it up as best he could. "When I first seen him I knew he was a damn fool."

## SWC DOUBLE HAUL BALL: DEC. 10

# THE DOUBLE HAUL BALL

**\$25 admission**  
*includes lunch!*

Kids under 16 yrs  
get in FREE

FLY TYING | FLY CASTING | SEMINARS | GEAR | TUTORIALS

## Long Beach Casting Club

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, 12/10/22, 9am to 4pm**

*for directions please visit: [longbeachcastingclub.org](http://longbeachcastingclub.org)*



*The Double Haul Ball is an educational all day event designed to promote and teach the basics of saltwater fly fishing.*

*Net proceeds from this event will be donated to Youth Programs: Southwest Council FFI Youth Program & The MayFly Project.*



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THE MAYFLY PROJECT



**FLY FISHERS  
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# SWC TROUT RODEO: FEBRUARY 4, 2023

by Michael Schweit, *SWC Special Projects*

On Saturday February 04, 2023 the town of Bishop and the Eastern Sierra will welcome anglers from California, Nevada and abroad to take part in the 2nd Annual Bishop Trout Rodeo. The Bishop Trout Rodeo is an open competition targeting trout on some of the most scenic and productive waters in California. The tournament will be held rain or shine and will be open to both fly and conventional anglers (in separate divisions) of all ability levels who will compete for the prizes of longest stringer landed and released and the largest single fish.

There are also team categories and there is no maximum limit to number of anglers on a team (scoring for teams is done on average so size of team has no advantage/disadvantage). So get your friends, club members or family together, come up with a name, and get yourself registered when the portal opens November 01, 2022.

With support from the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, the event is being produced by the Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International. This event will provide outdoor fun in a safe and beautiful environment during a time of year that offers very productive angling opportunities with minimal crowds on the water.

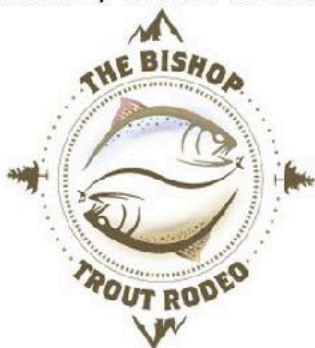
For more information, including times, location, rules and when to sign up, please visit:

<https://www.swcffi.org/rodeo>

For press info general questions, or sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International  
Michael Schweit 818.6019702  
[specialprojects@swcffi.org](mailto:specialprojects@swcffi.org)

**FEBRUARY 04. 2023  
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA**



**FLY OR SPIN FOR THE WIN**



## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The Board of Directors and membership of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers wish to express their appreciation to the retailers below. Their promotion of our club and its activities thorough the year, and their contributions of products and services help us to continue the various public services that we offer.

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