



CONTENTS

In-Person General Meeting:

Thursday, February 161

President's Message5

SPFF 2022 Awards Presentation .6

Directors & Committee Chairs7

Membership.....7

SPFF Event Calendar7

Introduction to Fly Fishing

(ITFF)8

SWC Trout Rodeo: Feb. 4.....9

Podcast on Rainbow Trout10

Fishing Report: A New Year's

Eve Tradition.....11

SPFF March Auction: Items

Wanted!12

Support Our Sponsors.....13



IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

BAJA ADVENTURES with Gary Bulla

by Marshall Bissett

In February we welcome back Gary Bulla, with an updated program on the exciting fishing to be found in Southern Baja. Gary is a familiar figure on the local saltwater scene and brings an infectious enthusiasm to his presentations. Get ready to pack your bags for Mexico!

Gary Bulla's presentation will take anglers through the fishing season on the Sea of Cortez in Southern Baja. At five million years old this inland sea is the youngest in the world; yet biologically it is the richest body of water on our planet. The diversity of fish in Baja waters means anglers can revisit Baja at various times of the year and have very different quarry. There is surface sight fishing and deeper water fishing at all times of the year. Panga fishing from outboard skiffs modified for flyfishing can produce rod bending, spool burning takes that test your endurance and your knot tying.



(continued on next page)

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(continued from page 1)

Casting to rooster fish or dorado on the surface is a sport sure to provide a large dose of adrenalin. There is no other fishing that is comparable to flyfishing for roosters. It is sight fishing taken to the extreme. Because of the incredible surface action that causes sheer panic and adrenalin spikes and their completely unpredictable movements and moods, it is considered by many to be the most dynamic flyfishing on the planet. But, what makes this part of Baja's Sea of Cortez so special?



The Punta Arenas/Cerralvo Island area is unique. All world records for Roosterfish were recorded here. The bait populations here are abundant and support a huge population of both pelagic and reef dwellers. Coral reefs flourish adjacent to incredibly deep trenches, combined with the seasonal winds enhanced by the channel, they create the constant upwellings of plankton and other nutrients that provide the foundation for an astounding diversity of species.

Not only do over 900 species of fish thrive here, but sea turtles, sea lions, whales, orcas, huge schools of manta rays and dolphins are residents during many months of the year. Jacques Cousteau spent so much time exploring the richness of the area that the Mexican Government officially changed the name of Cerralvo Island to Jacques Cousteau Island. He called it "The world's aquarium".

For fly fishers, the large bays, points, and the island mean that there is usually shelter from open sea winds and swells when present. Pangas, or small open boats, can be utilized effectively. They are stealthier and more maneuverable than large sport fishing boats. Two anglers can fish at once and cast in most any direction when necessary. Roosterfish cruise the inshore within a few hundred feet of the beach for food as small as the flat iron herring, or "sardina", and as large as ladyfish. Yellowfin tuna and dorado can be caught close to shore also. You don't have to run miles to offshore banks to find them.



Gary will share his discoveries with the club, including tackle and techniques for the dazzling variety of fish south of the border.

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

Gary's thirty-three-year relationship with the captains in the Cerralvo Island/Punta Arenas area of Baja has led to a transformation in the values of the fishing community. They have become the best and most sought after flyfishing captains in the area and converts to the values of protecting their fishery and encouraging catch and release.

Gary's journey began as a young man. He grew up on the beaches of the Southern California Coast where father took him camping and fishing once a month and his mother was an avid saltwater fisher. As a member of the Newport Lady Anglers she even took trips to Baja to fish in the 1960's, where she caught sailfish, dorado and marlin.

Gary's wife, Theresa, was an innovative teacher whose specialty is marine biology. In the eighties they both met Yvon and Malinda Chouinard because they were impressed with Theresa's teaching methodologies. They invited them to their Wyoming home where Yvon taught Gary how to cast a fly rod on the Snake River. Yvon and Gary returned to Ventura and flyfished in the surf for perch. The seed was planted. Gary discovered salt-water fly fishing combined his long-time love for the ocean and his passion for fly fishing with the convenience of having fish right at his back door



He quickly realized that there was not a great deal of information about catching West coast salt-water species on the fly and began to use his knowledge of tides and tidal life to not only chase down surf perch, but corbina, halibut, yellowfin croaker, striped bass and white sea bass. There were untapped fly-fishing opportunities right along the shores of Southern California that would provide opportunity and awesome challenges for the fly fishers of the area. California corbina were the most interesting challenge. They were visible in the surf line-and difficult to fool. Perfect!

Over the next few years, he spent his early mornings and late evenings patrolling the beaches, trying to develop presentations and flies that could lure the corbina. He began guiding others and holding seminars on surf fishing. Through his website and a small community of hard-core surf fishers, the information on fly fishing the surf exploded, and so did the number of fly fishers walking the beaches. Gary also began exploring the kelp beds in his kayak, and developing flies that would attract the many varieties of fish found on the Southern California Coast.

In 1989, Gary began accompanying Theresa on expeditions to Baja's southernmost bay where gray whales migrate to give birth to their young. Camping and kayaking with her students on Baja's Magdalena Island they discovered adjacent estuaries abundant with species of birds and fish. He brought a fly rod and was astounded at the incredible variety of fish that were available in the waters of Baja. After the trips with the students, he explored other waters of Southern Baja. In 1990 he met members of the Lucero family at Punta Arenas and introduced them to the first fly rods they had ever seen. Their relationship quickly deepened as the Luceros shared their deep knowledge of the Gulf of California. Together, they developed successful flies and methods of fly fishing. Over the years his clients became friends with his staff and captains and were more numerous every season.

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

He now spends spring, summer and fall hosting and guiding all-inclusive fly-fishing trips at Punta Arena/Cerralvo Island (in the Sea of Cortez) and other international destinations. He has guided kayak fly fishing trips to Magdalena Island and Espiritu Santo Island and hosted multiple trips to Belize and the Amazon.

A keen photographer, his photos have appeared in The Drake Magazine, Fly Rod and Reel, The Patagonia Catalog, Pacific Sportfisher and more. Southwest Flyfishing Magazine published his feature article on "Flyfishing the Santa Barbara Surf" in their January/February 2106 issue. Currently Pacific Sportsman Magazine Jan/Feb 2023 featured him in an article "Combing for Baja Roosters" by Glenn Ueda.

Gary's "Gremmie" surf fly was featured in a Scott Sadil article in California Flyfisher Magazine, and has become a "go-to" for surf fishing in California. His Papagallo and Tuna Tux series are standards in the waters of Baja and were featured in Tony Lolli's book "Go-to Flies". He is featured in the upcoming film "Bitter Waters", by Peter Grigsby and New Sky Productions.



Gary held the IGFA 16-pound tippet world record for California yellowtail at 34.7 pounds and the 20-pound tippet world record 32.5 pounds. When he is not working the salt, he is at his home and in his custom furniture studio in Ojai, California.

6:30PM: **Social hour.** Dinner may be ordered any time. Some social business is conducted before including tall tale fishing stories and general announcements, and then there is a chance to purchase some raffle tickets for some very nice prizes.

7:00PM:- **Dinner**

8:00PM: **Speaker Presentation**

Meeting Location: Monterey at Encino (smaller room
 next to the bar)
 16821 Burbank Blvd
 Encino, CA 91436

Downloadable Directions: | [click here](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bernie Ecker



The January dinner meeting with Chris King was cancelled unexpectedly because the facility at The Glen was closed. Program Chair, Marshall Bissett was working this problem as I walked up to The Glen that evening and has since received an apology from the concessionaire. This is the first time we cancelled in our long history of holding our meetings at the Glen. Please accept my sincere apology to all the members and their guests that showed up in the rain and were disappointed. Marshall said that he will look into getting Chris King back so we can enjoy his presentation.

By the time you read this, SPFF will have re-started our annual Introduction to Fly Fishing (ITFF) program which has been on hiatus since the start of COVID-19. I took this class many years ago. I started with no fly fishing experience so needless to say I learned a lot and I'm still learning. The program offered today is fantastic. There have been years of thought and effort put into refining the details of instruction making our ITFF among the best available. I find the sport of fly fishing is an enjoyable and rewarding lifelong endeavor. I hope you enjoy and benefit from this well planned program and share it with your friends and family.

We held an online auction early in January with a selection of fishing guide trips and destinations to plan for this year's fishing. The timing of this is new and was deliberate to give the winners the best opportunity to book their adventures. In March, at our annual fund raiser we will offer more guide trips and destination offers along with equipment and many other fly fishing related items.

I attended the Winter Quarterly Meeting of Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International (SWCFFI). Rick Russo, SPFF Vice President and Tom Wright, our SWC Representative, were also in attendance. Along with the usual club business there was a guest speaker, Sandra Jacobson, the CalTrout Director for the South Coast and Sierra Districts Projects. Her material emphasized a science-based conservation approach being applied in concert with Coalition partners. It covered coastal San Diego streams where steelhead are present, our local coastal area and the Sierra. I was impressed and excited to see the many ongoing conservation activities with some in our back yard or favorite High Sierra destinations. The presentation was somewhat abbreviated and is worthy of a more in depth examination. Sandra offered to present all or part of her program to clubs. I know we have a full speaker schedule for 2023 but I will be sharing this information with our Programs Chair with the hope



that we might host her as one of our future speakers.

With all the SPFF activities planned for February, don't forget Valentine's Day. My plan is to take Rosemary to Bishop for the ITFF Graduation Outing. I'm not sure that's what she had in mind for Valentine's Day.

SPFF 2022 AWARDS PRESENTATION

by Rich Ress

Two awards were presented at the December dinner meeting, to a couple of deserving honorees. The first was the J. Stanley Lloyd Order of the Mayfly, which honors a person who has contributed to the art of fly fishing. This year's award was to John Van Derhoof. John is a recipient of the ITFF Bus Buszek Memorial Award (as is our own Steve Fernandez), having tied flies for more than 50 years, teaching and tying and fishing all over the country. His fly plates, and especially his salmon flies, are highly prized and collected. He's a casting instructor, rod builder, writer and artist, and we've been lucky enough to have him teach our fly tying group on occasion. It was our honor to present him with this award.

The second award was a new one which I instituted as my last official act as President of SPFF. It is the Michael Peratis Education Award, to be presented to honorees who have given their time, expertise and example as teachers in the many aspects of fly fishing. The Inaugural award was presented, appropriately, to none other than Michael Peratis. There could be no more deserving honoree; I don't know how the club could have survived the past few years without him. He kept our fly tying program going almost single handedly throughout the pandemic and the loss of our former venue, in the process creating the best remote tying group and then transforming it into a hybrid of remote and in person sessions that is the envy of other clubs and attracts tiers from all over. He is the technological guru who makes it all work, the fly tier when no one else steps up to teach, the supplier of materials for those who need them and the director of the annual Introduction to Fly Tying course. He helps to lead our Saturday casting practice, gets things downloaded and formatted when needed, and too many other things to list. He has been the glue keeping us together and I don't know if I would have survived as President without him.



John Van Derhoof



Michael Peratis

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Bernie Ecker
Vice President.....	Rick Russo
Secretary.....	Roger Backlar
Treasurer	Mike Hembree
Calendar	Tom Wright
Communications.....	Bill Luddy
Conservation	Bill Luddy
Development	Rich Hoffman
Education	Michael Peratis
Head Fly Tying	Michael Peratis
Membership	Jay Bushore
Newsletter Editor	Ed Swanson
Outings	Jim Fleisher
Programs	Marshall Bissett
Raffles	Steve Esgate
Social Media	Michael Schweit
Special Projects	Glenn Short
SWCFFI Representative	Tom Wright
Web Master	Cece Rubin
Member at Large	Aran Dokovna
Member at Large	Jody Martin
Member at Large	Rich Ress

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.

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	1
Board Meeting (via Zoom).....	2
Introduction to Fly Fishing (ITFF) class	4
SWC Trout Rodeo (Bishop, CA).....	4
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	8
Introduction to Fly Fishing (ITFF) class	11
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	15
Dinner Meeting and Program ("Baja Adventures" with Gary Bulla)	16
Introduction to Fly Fishing (ITFF) class	18
SWC Women's Outing with Beryl Rea	18-20
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	22
ITFF Graduation Outing	24-26
The Fly Fishing Show (Pleasanton)	24-26

MARCH

Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	1
Board Meeting (via Zoom).....	2
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	4
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	8
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	15
Dinner Meeting and Auction	16
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	22
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	29
Bert Hall Show	29-April 2
Fly Fishing Faire	31-April 2

APRIL

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	1
Board Meeting (via Zoom).....	6
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	15
SWC FFI Winter Quarterly Meeting/Club Management Day	15
Dinner Meeting and Program ("Guide Flies: Learn to Fish Signature Patterns for Tough Trout" with Landon Mayer)	20
Annual Owens River Clean-Up	22

INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING (ITFF)

Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers Foundation

LEARN TO FLY FISH

CLASSES BEGIN SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4TH AT THE ONE GENERATION SENIOR CENTER
18255 VICTORY BLVD., RESEDA, CA 91335 (just East of Reseda Park)

REGISTER NOW AT WWW.SPFF.ORG

**YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER IN-PERSON AT THE EVENT AT 8:00 AM ON
FEB 4th ON THE PATIO NEXT TO THE ONE GENERATION RECREATION ROOM**

INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING – WHEN, WHERE & WHAT

Class 1 Registration & General Introduction to fly fishing. Explanation of equipment. Local fishing opportunities and you will learn the ROLL CAST and some essential knots.
Feb 4

Class 2 Dry fly fishing, knot tying. You will learn the PICK-UP & LAY-DOWN CAST
Feb 11

Class 3 Nymph fishing techniques, more knots. You will learn THE FALSE CAST
Feb 18

GRADUATION – *This event is optional but highly recommended.*
Feb 24–26

It is a weekend of FISHING up in Bishop with help from your instructors. You'll be out on the Owens River trying to catch trout, then enjoy our group dinner on Saturday night when we'll present your diplomas and listen to you lie about the number and size of all the fish you caught!

Classes 1, 2 and 3 run from 9:00 am till 12:30 pm. The cost is \$40 for adults and free for kids under 18. It includes all instruction, classroom materials and your handbook. We provide loaner rods and reels at no cost. Students attending the graduation in Bishop are responsible for their own travel, meals and lodging expenses.

For more information, please visit our website www.spff.org or contact one of our education team

Michael Peratis at education2@spff.org or Rick Russo at education1@spff.org

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.

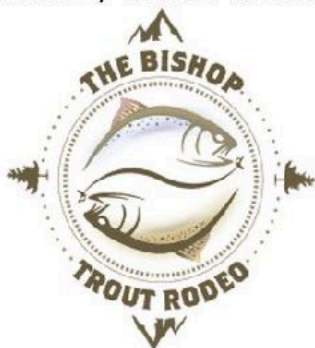
For more information, including times, location, rules and when to sign up, please visit:

<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

**FEBRUARY 04. 2023
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA**



FLY OR SPIN FOR THE WIN



PODCAST ON RAINBOW TROUT

By Leigh Ann Swanson

Here's a fun podcast about one of our favorite fish: the rainbow trout, also known as *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. It's part of a series called "Fish of the Week" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The co-hosts bring excitement and humor to the podcast to help listeners walk away from each episode smiling. Each episode contains practical information about how to connect with and conserve our amazing, finned friends. Enjoy!



"I'm not just a pretty rainbow. 🌈

I'm tough and opportunistic. I'll eat all the shrews I can fit in my belly. Aquatic nymphs and flighted insects? Yes, please. I'll take a helping of those small fish and some eggs too. Sometimes my adventurous spirit calls me to the sea, where I'll get big and silver. I've been spread all over the world."

Really get to know this fish by catching U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Fish of the Week! Podcast by going to <https://www.fws.gov/fish-of-the-week-podcast> and then clicking on S3: E4 Rainbow Trout! If you're new to podcasts, they're a great way to consume in-depth information about topics you like.



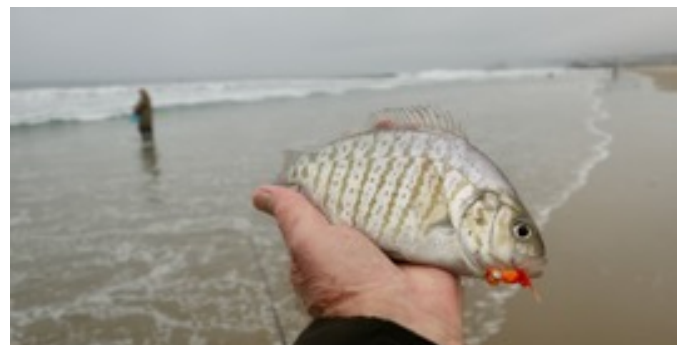
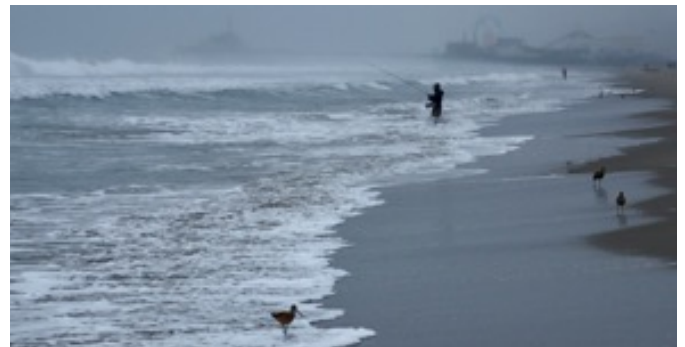
FISHING REPORT: A NEW YEAR'S EVE TRADITION

by Glenn Short

In 2009, a group of Sierra Pacific members began a tradition of gathering on a Southern California beach on New Year's Eve morning to end the year fishing in the surf. We always have a few friends from other Southern California clubs who join us, and we rely on Kevin Green, our surf fishing guru from Huntington Beach, to select the best location. Over the years, we have fished as far north as Santa Barbara and as far south as Newport Beach, but Carpinteria has been a favorite destination. We meet at sunrise, fish for a few hours, then go to a local restaurant for a late breakfast. After breakfast, we all return to our homes for a nap.

This year we met between towers 27 and 28 on Santa Monica Beach. The weather was cloudy and cold, with intermittent light rain. Some fish were caught, but not in the numbers we expected given the conditions. Personally, I attribute the low catch rate to the influence of climate change, and I always assume that if Kevin catches fewer fish than he as fingers, something is wrong. Although we caught few fish than usual, it was a beautiful morning and it is a pleasant tradition worthy of continuing.

Happy New Year everyone!



SPFF MARCH AUCTION: ITEMS WANTED!

SPFF MARCH AUCTION **ITEMS WANTED**

Cut off for donations is February 28, 2023!

Dear Club Members,

In preparation for our March 2023 Auction, we are now seeking items for donation.

Here are some types of items which work well in our auctions:

- Guide Trips
- Vacation Property Rentals
- Fly Rods and Reels new or in very good to excellent condition.
- Chest Packs, Fanny Packs, Back Packs, Vests, new with tags or “as new” condition without tags
- Fly Tying Vises new or in very good to excellent condition.
- Discount Coupons for outdoor related retailers
- Discount Coupons for local restaurants
- Fly Fishing Related Books
- Fly Collections
- Collectables or Special Items, fishing or outdoor related

We are always open to suggestions.

If you would like to donate items, please contact me. I can be available for Saturday casting clinics if requested or by mail. In addition, I usually attend the weekly fly-tying sessions on Wednesday evenings, and the monthly Dinner meeting. Let me know, we'll work something out.

Rich Hoffman
Development Chair
Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers
Email: RWHFFMN@AOL.COM
Cell: 714-293-1223

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.

Fishermen's Spot

14411 Burbank Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818.785.7306

Orvis

345 S. Lake Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626.356.8000

Pat Jaeger

Eastern Sierra Guide Service
2327 Stone Circle
Bishop, CA 93514
760.872.7770

Patagonia-Ventura

Great Pacific Iron Works
235 W. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074

Patagonia-Pasadena

47 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91103
626.795.0319

Patagonia Santa Monica

1344 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90401
310-395-6895

Real Cheap Sports

235 W. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074

Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers proudly supports the conservation efforts of:



dfg.ca.gov/fishing



caltrout.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

flyfishersinternational.org



tu.org