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IN-PERSON DINNER MEETING AND ANNUAL AUCTION: THURSDAY, MARCH 16 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Don't miss SPFF's annual auction and fundraiser! This is a chance to help your Club and score amazing bargains.

For starters in the live auction, we will have condo packages in Mammoth and June Lake - perfect for the upcoming GSO or Fall trips. Cheaper than hotels and way more fun.

Also, on the agenda an excellent Euro Nymph rod, perfect for our local streams along with flies from our distinguished resident tiers Steven Fernandez and Mas Okui.

If that is not enough, there are excellent guide packages and a very special original framed pen and ink drawing from UK artist Charles Jardine.

Of course, there will be a raffle, great food and good company.

See the next page for more details!

**See you there!
Rich Hoffman – Fundraiser.**

(continued on next page)

ANNUAL AUCTION AND FUNDRAISER (CONT.)

(continued from page 1)

**NO NEED TO REGISTER
FOR THE AUCTION!**

March 16, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dinner or Conversation: 6:30 PM

CATALOG NOW ONLINE

[VIEW CATALOG > CLICK HERE](#)

or

fundraiser.support/SPFFMARCHAUCTION

Note: We will replace the silent portion with an online auction in the near future!

Please read terms and conditions in each item description.

Contact Us At: "HoffmanR704@gmail.com"

SPFF's MEETINGS WILL NOW BE STRICTLY "IN-PERSON"

Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers' monthly dinner meetings are held at the Monterey at Encino. This is a dinner/meeting venue attached to the Sepulveda Golf Complex at 16821 Burbank Blvd, Encino, California 91436. We meet in the room next to the bar by the golf course.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bernie Ecker

March is fundraiser month at SPFF. The cover article for this newsletter will elaborate on the details but suffice it to say we will have a variety of fishing related items available via silent auction, maybe raffle and live auction. Newer members, now is a great time to stock up on the equipment and trips of your dreams. Keep in mind the proceeds from our fundraising efforts support conservation and education through our foundation.

Conservation and education are core values of SPFF along with having fun fishing. Over time SPFF has been able to make significant contributions for many worthwhile conservation causes due to our fundraising efforts and your generous support. Our March fundraiser continues this annual tradition. As you look over the variety of items and adventures, remember that your donations will be helping to conserve the beauty and vitality of beautiful fishing locations for you and future generations.

This year SPFF will also be participating in a local conservation project, The Malibu Creek Steelhead Restoration project. Another article in this issue will be providing information about this project of which SPFF has taken a financial lead. Commensurate with that donation, SPFF members will have an opportunity to volunteer in the removal of these invasive species. We may be catching carp, catfish and who know what else while helping biologists document the catch. This project is likely to be a long term effort with the eventual goal of preparing Malibu creek and associated impoundments for steelhead after Rindge dam is removed. For more details about Rindge dam see <https://caltrout.org/article/the-current-winter-2021/rindge-dam-removal-and-malibu-creek-ecosystem-restoration>

We just completed our third session of the ITFF (Introduction to Fly Fishing) course with a moving



water experience on the LA River. The turnout for the classes was much better than anticipated and the students have been most attentive absorbing a wealth of knowledge and learning new skills from the instructors. Many of the students and instructors have been preparing for the follow up graduation outing weekend. Unfortunately, at the last minute we had to cancel due to an unusually cold, wet and snowy weather forecast. The Graduation outing on the lower Owens River is intended to put the student's knowledge and skills to use so we will have to wait for information on the rescheduled event. My appreciation and thanks to all the instructors and all the others from SPFF that have volunteered their time to participate in this important educational activity. Beyond the introduction to fly fishing, this course is the primary means of growing our membership so a special thank you to club members for encouraging family and friends to join us.

BART HALL SHOW: MARCH 31 - APRIL 2

Southwest Council of FFI hopes to create a Fly Fishing area within the Bart Hall Show (Long Beach Convention Center, March 31 - April 2), and it needs our help, both as volunteers and attendees. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Michael Schweit, Special Projects Director for the Southwest Council, at specialprojects@swcffi.org.

Back by Popular Demand

FLY FISHING

At the Bart Hall Show

SoCal's Largest Outdoor
Adventure Show

Speakers | Vendors | Guides |
Demonstrations | Lessons | Raffles

Long Beach Convention Center
March 31-April 02

For vendor opportunities/info
specialprojects@swcffi.org



Bart Hall Shows

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	Ed Swanson
Outings	Jim Fleisher
Programs	Marshall Bissett
Project Healing Waters	Dave Hoffberg
Raffles.....	Steve Esgate
Social Media.....	Michael Schweit
Special Projects	Glenn Short
SWCFFI Representative	Tom Wright
Webmaster	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](http://spff.org/New_Member_Signup). Please welcome our newest members:

Patrick Everett
 Brian Mrachek
 Erich Barodte
 Jonathan Summer
 Mark Weissman

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

MARCH

Board Meeting (via Zoom).....	2
ITFF Graduation Outing	3-5
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	8
Board Meeting	9
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
Bart Hall Show	29-April 2
Fly Fishing Faire	31-April 2

APRIL

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	1
Board Meeting (via Zoom).....	13
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
SWC/FFI Club Management Day (via Zoom).....	29

MAY

Board Meeting	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	6
Dinner Meeting and Program ("The Amazing Redband Trout" with Marlon Rampy).....	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	20

MALIBU CREEK AND THE SOUTHERN STEELHEAD

by Debbie Sharpton

Join Us as We Help Clean Up Malibu Creek for the Return of the Southern Steelhead!



Steelhead young of year photo courtesy of Jenna Krug, RCDSMM

The California Department of Parks and Recreation ("State Parks") is finishing the engineering and permits to remove Rindge Dam from Malibu Creek State Park. SWCFFI Conservation is launching an organized effort to help State Parks prepare the streams above the dam so the returning steelhead have the least amount of manmade stressors while they fight back from the brink of extinction. If you have ever caught a steelhead you know that given a chance with good clean habitat, they will prevail! You can be a part of this historic effort!

Currently, southern steelhead have access to only 3 miles of Malibu Creek. Behind the dam lies many miles of excellent stream structure to support spawning and growth of young steelhead. Young steelhead trout chances of survival are diminished by competition for habitat and predation by the presence of nonnative species of fish, bullfrogs and crayfish. The nonnative largemouth bass and catfish are the likely suspects for the elimination of the native Arroyo Chub from Malibu Creek up to Las Virgenes Creek. The steelhead young of year don't stand much of a chance.

Now is the time to act! Get involved! After the dam is gone work in areas accessible to steelhead will be off-limits until they get off the endangered species list! All you need now is a fishing license and a pledge to State Parks and SWC Conservation to catch and remove! Have some fun hiking the beautiful Malibu Creek State Park while you do it!

Made possible by a generous grant from Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, SWC Conservation will organize and support fishers that want to help the steelhead's chances of survival. The program includes fishers and independent efforts as well as group events focused on removing the nonnative fish and bullfrogs. With the help of Laura Bedoyan, a CSUN computer science graduate student, easy access to a data sheet to track what you catch and take is all we ask of you. We will provide you with an agreement with State Parks, a special ID

MALIBU CREEK AND THE SOUTHERN STEELHEAD (CONT.)

card, a freezer to put the fish if you don't want to eat it, and a method to rack up volunteer hours towards an Angeles District parking pass for one year.

We are currently building a fishing map of Malibu Creek above Rindge Dam, below the dam is closed due to steelhead accessibility, and are looking for some volunteers to help scout and map. For those that haven't done so already, Please signup at <https://sites.google.com/view/malibucreek/home> or use the QR Code to get to the signup sheet:



Santa Monica Mountains steelhead photo courtesy of Steve Williams, RCDSMM

CONSERVATION NEWS

by Debbie Sharpton

Golden Trout Wilderness Volunteer Opportunity! Wow!

SWC Conservation is seeking up to 8 able bodied individuals to join Inyo National Forest this August remove around 2 miles of antiquated fencing in Ramshaw Meadows. This meadow was removed from permitted grazing in 2001. For five years fishers, including generous contributions from Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, assisted Dr. Kathleen Matthews studying the meadows and last time I was in Ramshaw was 2015 and the willows along the banks were recovering, the golden trout were larger than other streams, and the meadow grasses were thick. Here is a link to the research results: <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ecs2.1880>

The Inyo NF will provide the lead, equipment, and possible personal gear delivery by the pack mules. The trip will be 5 days or so. It's a trek, 12 miles or so from Horseshoe Meadows. Bring your fishing rods! If you are interested, please reach out to me at conservation@swcffi.org



photo courtesy of CDFW

Marine Protected Areas 10 Year Review - Science Available

I recently attended a 1-hour remote meeting with 400 others listening to a panel composed of Wade Crowfoot, head of the CA Natural Resources Agency, Chuck Bonham, head of CDFW, a volunteer fisher, a researcher at UCSB and an indigenous peoples' representative. The studies that have occurred over the last ten years have been analyzed and the panel all agreed that areas within the MPAs show increased fish biomass. They were all pleased on the direction MPAs were headed. If you would like to see the results yourself, you can attend a larger forum on March 15. The MPA Decadel Management Review Report is available as well at:

<https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2023/01/31/make-plans-to-attend-mpa-day-management-review-forum/>

The Ocean Protection Council, a state entity with a mission of ensuring that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations, has the monitoring data nicely laid out at: <https://www.opc.ca.gov/programs-summary/marine-protected-areas/research-and-monitoring/>

OUTINGS REPORT

by Jim Fleisher, Outings Chairperson

Graduation Outing

At the time of this writing, the Graduation Outing has been delayed one week and hopefully will actually take place. Mother Nature reigns!!

Surf Outings

Once the weather settles a bit in Los Angeles, I hope to arrange a couple surf outings, probably at Rincon or La Conchita. We need a little warmer weather and less surf.

Hot Creek Ranch

Our first summer outing is the annual Hot Creek Ranch weekend where the club reserves the entire resort. This will take place the weekend of June 9-12. At this time, all the cabins have been reserved. There is a waiting list. Please contact me if you are interested.

Great Summer Outing

The next major outing for the club is our annual "GREAT SUMMER OUTING" or GSO taking place in Mammoth Lakes the weekend of July 14-16. This is a great time for our recent ITFF graduates to gain more experience actually fishing and find out the many wonderful and sometimes "secret" places to fish in the High Sierras.

We traditionally have experienced club members take students and fellow club members in small groups to various sites in the Mammoth Lakes and Yosemite areas. These are not professional guides but volunteer trip leaders to take folks out to the various places and acquaint them with the region.

There will be a Saturday evening dinner at a place to be determined where we can all gather, do some raffles and tell fish stories.

Let's continue to tie flies and get prepared for a summer that may have a big early run off but should provide good fishing the rest of the season.



PRE-SUPER BOWL WEEKEND REPORT

by Rich Ress

For many years we have begun our Club's fishing calendar with an outing to the Bishop area on Super Bowl weekend. Because of various scheduling conflicts this has been advanced by a week or two, hence the Pre-Super Bowl outing. This year it was held on January 27-29. Our usual menu of sites include the lower Owens River, the upper Owens, the public areas of Hot Creek and, for the more adventurous, some sites north of Mammoth around Lee Vining. This year, however, a once in a decade snowfall in December and January closed everything north of Bishop. Hot Creek was accessible only by snowmobile or snowshoes, and, as far as I know, the upper Owens was accessible to no one.



So, we all spread out to the various parts of the lower O, including the 6th Street Bridge, the Cement Plant, and all along Chalk Bluff Road. Normally, we would expect fair fishing at these sites but this time, perhaps because of the need to lower the level of the Pleasant Valley dam (or just to piss me off) a lot of water was released leaving the river tea colored, high and flowing more than we are used to. As a result, fish were few and far between, leaving many of us skunked on one or both days and those who caught fish with only a few to hand. At least one member, our new Club Secretary Roger Backlar, snowshoed in the tracks of a snowmobile to Hot Creek where he was rewarded by some good sized fish, though fewer than one would like after such an arduous effort. Marshall, as usual, bushwacked into some areas where most of us don't go and was rewarded appropriately (or so he says: I haven't seen any pictures).



Despite dire warnings, however, the weather was glorious with temperatures in the 60s during the day and the town ringed with snow covered mountains. We say that fly fishing is generally done in beautiful places. Bishop is sometimes marginal in that respect, though not this time. It was a pleasure just to stand and look around at the majestic mountains covered in white.

As always, we had a Saturday night dinner for our group. For the past couple of years we have met at Astorga's Mexican restaurant, where the food is good, the staff accommodating and the comradery terrific.



ITFF: A FLYING START TO THE YEAR

by Marshall Bissett

With a flurry of last minute registrations, the ITFF (Introduction To Fly Fishing) filled the smaller room at the ONE GENERATION Center. We welcomed students of all ages including a couple of families. After a brief audio-visual presentation covering the basics, the first group headed out to Reseda Pond to learn the roll cast while the others stayed behind to learn knots. FFI Certified Instructors Marshall Bissett and Jody Martin, ably assisted by club members worked on this foundation cast. "It's not quite as easy as you make it look," was a common refrain. Predictably the biggest and burliest of the students struggled the most with this finesse cast. The knot tiers, led by Jim Fleisher and Steve Ebersold, tackled the clinch (regular and improved) with user-friendly large hooks and colored lines.



"This is really a membership drive," said membership Chair Jay Bushore, "all the enrolled students can become Club members for a year." A set of display boards showed the Club's diverse activities from rod building, to fly tying and outings. Gene Mahn demonstrated the art of fly tying.

The four-week course, open to the general public, is a longtime SPFF tradition. Comprising two classroom sessions, one LA River outing and a graduation in Bishop, the students leave with a basic grounding in flyfishing. Many become as obsessed as we Club members, while others stick with spin fishing.

Thanks are due to the many Club members who set up chairs, provided coffee and donuts, and shared their knowledge and love of the sport.

The sun shone on the third session at the Glendale Narrows section of the LA River, where the river has all the riffles, runs and drop-offs of a typical trout stream. Re-rigged with indicators and split shot the students got a primer in water-hauling, mending the line and the value of a drag-free drift. "Wow – moving water makes all the difference," was the cry from many of the group.



ITFF: A FLYING START TO THE YEAR (CONT.)

Students Brave Snow to Graduate ITFF

A hardy group of students ignored media reports of cold weather to meet, under glorious sunshine, in the parking lot of Buffalo Bill's in Bishop. Their desire to catch that first fish on the fly was more on their agenda than watching TV weather reports. The sidewalks of Bishop were piled high with snow but the road to the Lower Owens was clear and dry. With an instructor to student ratio of around two to one, the teams were now tasked with finding fish in the tricky conditions predicted by the local guides and outfitters. Some headed to the tried and true pullouts on Chalk Bluff Road



where, with flows running around 350 cfs, the fish were sure to be hunkered down in the deeper pools. With the 395 closed above Bishop there was no chance to fish Hot Creek or the Upper Owens. SUV's were definitely in order to tackle the deep, muddy potholes. While the Lower Owens did not produce fish, the students got a good grounding in indicator nymphing and dry fly presentation, ready for the Spring and Summer runs. The network of canals that connect to the Lower O and run close to town proved the most productive. A stealthy approach using a dry/dropper or a small Perdigon fished Euro nymph style. In contrast to the main river, the canals were mostly sluggish but still fishable. Students and instructors met back at Buffalo Bill's to receive their well-earned diplomas. A huge thanks is due to all the instructors who made this event such a success.



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.
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Real Cheap Sports

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