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IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 22 6:30 PM: Cocktail Hour 8 PM: Speaker

A FLY FISHER'S EVOLUTION with George Daniel

by Marshall Bissett

When George Daniel first exploded on to the fly fishing scene with his landmark book *Dynamic Nymphing* in 2011, it prompted the question, "How do you follow that?" Three years later the answer was the equally important seminal work on streamer fishing, *Strip Set*. Heralded as an overnight sensation, George's exceptional career as a competitive angler prepared him well for the success of both books. Not only did George make nymphing cool, but he also promoted streamer fishing from a method of last resort to a solid all day technique. In previous visits to Southern California, George has spoken on both topics. Ever the innovator, he continues to pioneer advanced nymphing styles such as the popular MONO rigs.



In this program George will share some of

(continued on next page)



IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: GEORGE DANIEL (CONT.)

(continued from page 1)

his favorite fly fishing tips and tricks from the 2022 season.

Lessons include pursuit of large brown trout in Arkansas, musky on the fly, chasing hex and eastern green drakes, his favorite mono systems for nymphs, dry flies, and streamers.

George has been chasing anything that swims with his fly rod since age 6 and still has the same passion 37 years later. George has competed at a high level for Fly Fishing Team USA, earning individual back to back US

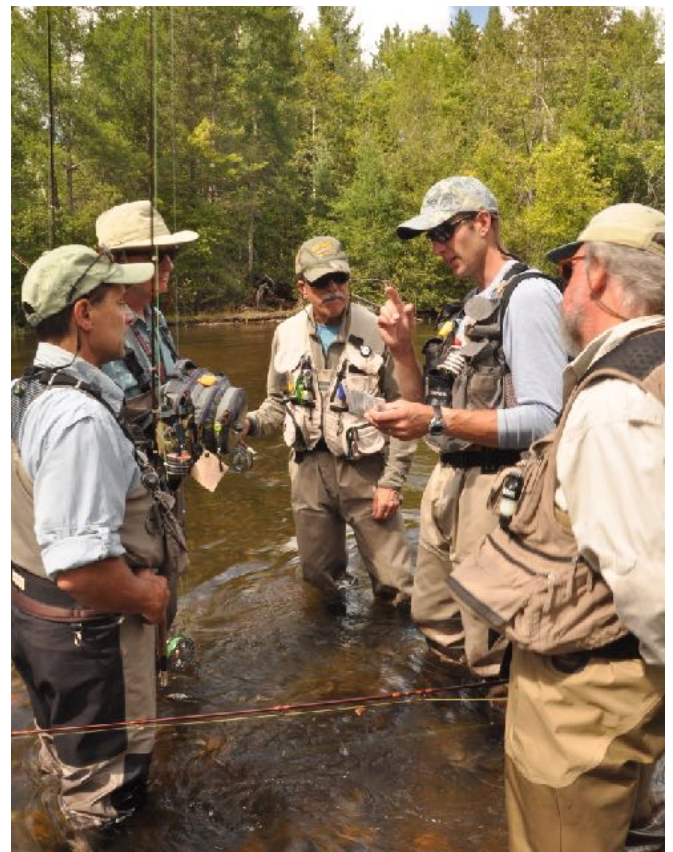
National Fly Fishing Championship titles and ranked as high as 5th in the World. George has also served as captain

for Fly Fishing Team USA and Coach for the US Youth Fly Fishing Team. He has competed and won other



regional and national fly fishing competitions over the years. At age 30, George decided to give up competitive fly fishing and focus on what he enjoys most-teaching.

George Daniel considers himself a teacher first and a fly fisher second. He has authored three best-selling fly fishing books and has authored dozens of articles for national fly fishing publications, including Fly Fisherman Magazine. He continues to travel the country conducting lessons and workshops for private groups, corporations, and conservation organizations. In 2022, George decided to come back to coach the US Youth Fly Fishing Team. He's a brand ambassador for several fly fishing companies. He is currently the Director of the Joe Humphreys Fly Fishing Program at Pennsylvania State University. George currently lives on an old farm homestead with his wife, two children, and Boykin spaniel.

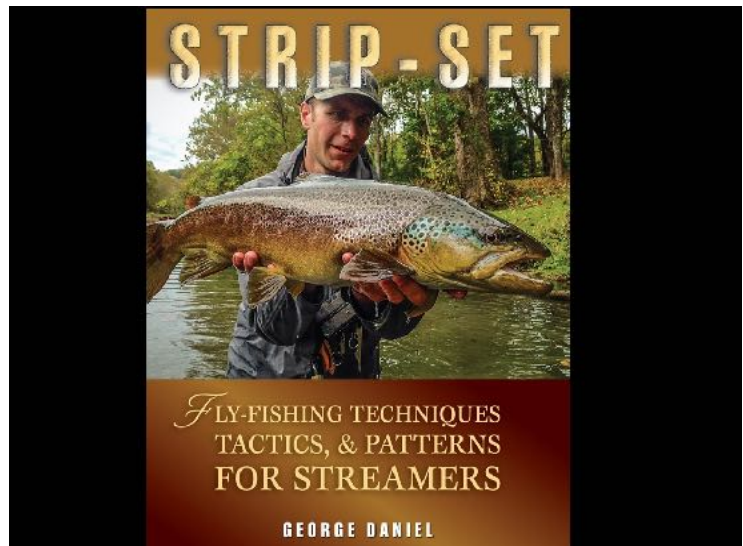
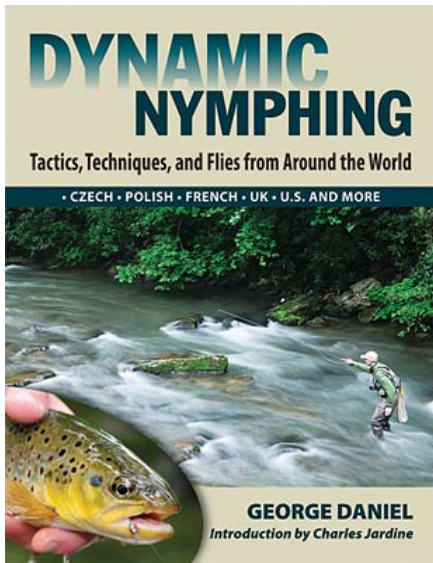


IN-PERSON GENERAL MEETING: GEORGE DANIEL (CONT.)

He began fly fishing at age six in Potter County, Pennsylvania. Growing up along a native brook trout fishery designated as a “kids only section” and, being the only kid in the village who fished, George was able to fly fish and practice a lot, so he developed a passion for it. Through his early teens, much of his fly fishing knowledge was self-taught. However, when George was 14, his family relocated to central Pennsylvania, where, at a local fly shop, he found himself talking to his fly fishing idol, Joe Humphreys. Joe kindly took George under his wing and began providing him with his first, formalized fly fishing instruction. When George was just 16 years old, Joe began to provide instruction on all levels. George credits Joe for the bulk of his knowledge, but also graciously acknowledges many national and international fly fishing professionals who have worked with him during the past.

George’s true passion is in fly fishing education. He appears at clubs and fly fishing shows around the country, giving lectures and conducting clinics and seminars. He also logs more than 200 days a year on trout waters near and far.

This is a program you do not want to miss.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

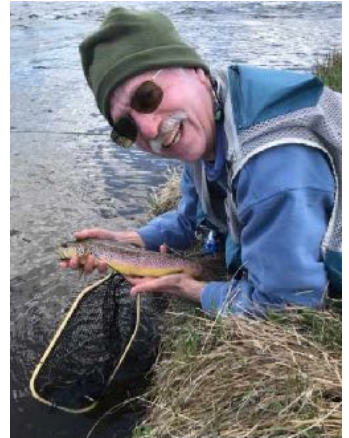
by Bernie Ecker

In my experience, fishing is usually well planned and does not entail much drama. This year was different from the beginning. Rosemary and I had planned to attend the ITFF Graduation outing. The original date was postponed so we moved our hotel reservation but as that date approached we backed out due to concerns about snowy weather. Fortunately for those that went the weather was good but the catching was poor. So by this past month I was really ready for some fishing. I have a booked reservation in May at Hot Creek Ranch. As that date approached, my cabin partner called in sick. I spent the next couple of days desperately trying to locate another fishing partner without success. While most appreciated the last minute invite, the odds were against me in that it was Mother's Day weekend, the fishing conditions were known to be uncertain, likely poor for dry fly fishing, due to record breaking snow pack and the threat of high water. I was determined to go even if that meant going alone. Finally, at the last minutes, I learned my cabin partner felt well enough to go, so the as planned adventure was back on.



The scenery across the Owens valley seemed greener than usual with lots of wildflower color. Owens dry lake had lots of water and the mountains were blanketed in more snow. The closer we got to the ranch, the more encouraged I was that we would not be snow shoeing to rivers edge. There were a few patches of snow but very little to be seen on the ground as we turned off 395 at Mammoth airport road. At Hot Creek Ranch, we walked across the green lawn, glanced at the creek and knew fishing access would be fine. We learned nymphing was allowed, or more specifically necessary, since there was no insect activity or corresponding rising trout to support dry fly fishing. Some very nice fish were caught after spending lots of time mining the depths. Patterns proved popular by the catching were bead head flash back pheasant tail, San Juan worm, Prince nymph, flashback scuds and zebra midges. The size and quality of the fish caught was excellent. It all turned out better than expected.

Previously I have written about Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers participation in fishing for invasive species of fish in Malibu creek. Last Sunday, the first SPFF group fished Malibu Creek. To my knowledge, no fish were caught but many years of fishing has taught me to spend time looking for evidence of fish before beginning to fish. I walked, or more specifically climbed my way up stream and stood on some very large boulders looking but not seeing any fish. As I sat down to eat a snack looking over a large pool of water with lots of water weeds, I finally spotted 2 fish. I watched as they nosed at the base of some weeds and wondered how I was going to catch one. I tied on a heavy nymph pattern and made several casts. The fish continued to feed unaffected by my clumsy efforts. I worked this hole for a while even after I no longer saw fish. I tired of clearing weeds from my hook so I made my way back to the group. Later, I set up to do some casting at the large pool where we were waiting for others to regroup and head back. I had made many casts and then saw another fish cruise by near me. In just a moment, that fish slowly swam back to the depths of the pool, never to be seen again.



Fishing twice in the month of May is unusual for me but a good feeling. I now know I have some necessary equipment maintenance, like leaky waders, to attend to before the next outing in June. When I return to Malibu Creek, I hope to have a better plan for catching.

As always it seems like there are lessons to be learned from our experiences. On the subject of planning fishing trips it seems I needed to have an alternate waiting for that just in case possibility that one of us needed to cancel at Hot Creek. I guess the closest analogy would be like an understudy in theater where the show must go on. With the ITFF Graduation outing we knew the cancellation rules for a refund and were able to cancel without financial penalty. It appears fishing Malibu creek was my unintentional test plan for my waders.

I invite all members with fishing experiences to send a story for our newsletter. We want to hear how the fish are biting and where your travels have taken you.

Wishing you tight lines and dry waders,

Bernie Ecker, President SPFF

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Member at Large	Jody Martin
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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

JUNE

Board Meeting	1
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	3
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	7
Hot Creek Ranch Weekend	9-12
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	14
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	17
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	21
Dinner Meeting and Program ("A Fly Fisher's Evolution" with George Daniel).....	22
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	28

JULY

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	1
Fly Tying (in person and Zoom)	5
Board Meeting	6
Summer SWC Quarterly Meeting.....	15
Dinner Meeting and Program ("Bass in Southern California" with Alex Cady)	18
GSO - Great Summer Outing.....	27-31

AUGUST

Board Meeting	3
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	5
Annual Family Picnic	13
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	19

MEETING INFORMATION:

This is a dinner/meeting venue attached to the Sepulveda Golf Complex at 16821 Burbank Blvd., Encino CA 91436. We are in the smaller room next to the bar by the golf course.

There is a no-host bar starting at 6:30. Dinner is optional and may be ordered any time. Some social business is conducted before 8 PM, including tall tale fishing stories and general announcements, and a chance to purchase some raffle tickets for some very nice prizes.

The speaker presentation will begin at about 8 PM.

OUTINGS REPORT: GREAT SUMMER OUTING (GSO)

by Jim Fleisher, Outings Chairperson

Plans are rapidly coming together for the annual Great Summer Outing (GSO) taking place in Mammoth Lakes, CA the weekend of July 28-30. There are now several member-led outings confirmed including Hot Creek, float tubing on Crowley Lake, the upper Owens River including the Big Springs section, and if accessible, the San Joaquin and the Dana Fork.

In addition, we have arranged for a professional guide, Beryl Rea, to lead a group on the Upper Owens River on Friday, July 28. Beryl has been a guide in the Mammoth Lakes area for many years and is an expert on fishing entomology. She will be leading a group of no more than 5 people. There will be a fee of \$50.00 for this outing payable at the time of registration. This is a great opportunity for newer members to learn the entomology of the river and how to read the water for the best fishing results.

Special this year through the efforts of Rick Russo, one of our education chairpersons, is a special session on Friday for the recent ITFF graduates entitled "Additional Instruction for ITFF Students". The committee felt that the Graduation Outing in March did not really provide the best experience for the students because of river conditions and the need to change the date at the last minute causing some students to be unable to attend. The hope is that by the end of July, water conditions should be more stable and allow the students to have a more positive fishing experience. Also, on Saturday, Bill Woods will be leading his annual "In Search of (Fly) Waters" outing taking less-experienced members to acquaint them to the various streams in the Mammoth Lakes Region.

We will again be having the famous barbecue dinner Saturday evening at the Breakfast Club. The cost this year is \$35.00 per person and payable at the time of registration.

By the time you read this, registration will be open for this event. Please read all the outing descriptions and chose the ones that best suit your interests. Don't forget to sign up for the Saturday dinner.

Simply go the the SPFF website calendar for July, click on the GSO and click on the "register" button to get started.



CELEBRATE JUNE AS WOMEN'S FLY FISHING MONTH

by Rosemary Ecker

There are many interesting opportunities available to women this month promoting the sport of flyfishing. SPFF will continue Saturday fly casting practice, Wednesdays for fly tying and we have our monthly meeting featuring George Daniels and New Nymphing Tactics. Some members will fish at Hot Creek at the club outing June 9-12.

Opportunities for women are expanded through other organizations. Here's a sample of how to become better informed about events.

Sign up for "FFi Women Connect" and receive the electronic newsletter. This is national organization and we are part of the Southwest Council of Federation of Flyfishers. Go to womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org

Attend the course "Introduction to Flyfishing" at Chesebrough Park in Santa Clarita.

There are a few SPFF women attending. Spaces limited to 42. Contact Santa Clarita Casting Club. The instruction will be round-robin style. June 4th 9-4:00.

Participate in the Flyfishing Photo Contest to celebrate women anglers in June. Share your photos for prizes. Entry fee is \$20/photo. You may enter the contest on the FFi Women Connect Contest page. Look on this website:

www.flyfishersinternational.org/Product/ffiwc-photo-contest

Visit Orvis Pasadena for Women Connect Day June 10. 11:00-3:00

Join the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers activities and support our club. Look for my e-mails that provide the details to lesson extras on fly casting days at Lake Balboa.

Make a donation to "Casting for Recovery" by placing your donation in the big pink fishing boot located on the counter, by the raffle area during club meetings, 3ed Thursday of the month.



IN MEMORIAM: MEL BERGER AND RON MORITA

MEL BERGER

Condolences to the friends and family of Mel Berger. Mel joined SPFF in 1998 and served for several years on the board of directors as treasurer in the early 2000s. Some members may recall Mel's sideline hobby selling different flavors of pickles and olives. Mel enjoyed many dinner meetings, fishing trips and adventures with friends from SPFF.

RON MORITA

After a prolonged illness, our long-time SPFF member, Past President, and friend, Ron Morita passed away peacefully in his sleep in May. He will be sorely missed.



FISHING STORY: GETTING EFREM TO SPEAK

by Bennett J. Mintz

For decades, beginning in 1961 and concluding around 1990, I was either employed by or did free-lance contract work for the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. Mostly, I wrote newsletters, fund raising materials, produced radio and television public service materials, and things of that sort.

Among my chores was procuring a big-voiced actor or announcer to read a brief biblical passage of the story of the Crucifixion and Resurrection for the YMCA's annual Good Friday Breakfast. It was a massive event with a thousand or more guests, alternating between the Biltmore and Bonaventure hotels. Over the years, I brought in a dozen or more people with booming voices . . . guys like Lorne Greene, William Conrad, Gary Owens and so many more. Eventually the Y recruited someone to replace me on a permanent basis; however they asked me to supervise the new guy for a little while. It was an odd situation of supervising my replacement, but it all seemed to work.

My successor was also named Ben, so that eased the transition somewhat. He was a nice guy and good writer, but always seemed on the outside, looking in at Y events.

The Good Friday Breakfast was rapidly approaching and he was given the usual task of securing a semi-notable, big-voiced bible reader as I had done. He immediately put out some feelers through agents and such and within days secured a big name actor. But the problem was the actor's messy divorce, so the Y president rejected him. A few days later, Ben came forth with an even better name, but a day or two after that, the guy cancelled. And so it went.

The event was a month away and Ben began to panic. All his contacts and all his friends' contacts began to vanish. This one was out of town, that one was out of the country or working and suddenly it was just two weeks until show time.

I kept my ace in the hole. I had become friendly with Stephanie Zimbalist, actor Efrem Zimbalist's wife, through fly fishing. Steph and a couple of girlfriends had become fly fishing nuts and were regulars at Sierra Pacific Flyfishers club meetings. Eventually, she and I and a few others went to Yellowstone to fish the Madison, Firehole and all the other park waters together. We had a grand time. Concurrently, I wrote a newsletter and roster for a "club" of Stephanie's friends and family called the Royal Order of the Stonefly. It was spoof upon spoof and right up my alley.

But it was also how I met her husband, actor Efrem and daughter, the wonderful actress Stephanie Jr.

Poor Ben was now up to two packs a day in his quest for a voice to do the Good Friday reading. The absolute, positive, no kidding deadline was two weeks before the event for printing programs, and Ben's final option (a small time actor) had gone up in smokes like his cigarettes.

GETTING EFREM TO SPEAK (CONT.)

Time for me to move. I called Stephanie and asked her if Efrem was going to be around for the holiday. She thought they were staying home because Efrem had agreed to do the Easter morning service at the Hollywood Bowl. With that, she put him on the line. I told him the deal and he agreed to do it.

I explained the entire situation with the other Ben and asked Efrem to go along with having him do the asking, not me.

Sitting in a morning meeting with Ben thinking of options to the bible reader problem, the poor guy was trembling for fear of failure, fear of losing the job he so desperately needed, fear of the Y's president and all other fears rolled into one. Playfully, I kept asking about various possibilities of actor/announcers. All had either previously rejected the request for one or any reason. Ben struck a match to his tenth smoke of the young day.

Hey, wait a second, I said. What about Efrem Zimbalist? My God, that was a great idea said Ben. GREAT! How do we reach him?

788-0762, I quickly responded.

Ben stared at me in total disbelief. "H-h-h-how do you happen to have his number without even looking in a book?" Ben wanted to know. Remember, Efrem was a hot property in those days with his hit FBI television show along with the fact he'd recently introduced President-to-be Ronald Reagan at the previous Republican National Convention at which Reagan was nominated. I fish with his wife, I explained.

It was as if I'd told the guy that I'd just returned from a trip to the moon or something. Total disbelief.

"Y-y-you go fishing with Efrem Zimbalist's wife!" he exploded.

Yes. Call him now, I replied.

Efrem always answered in a soft, sincere hello, and when Ben heard it, he began to blurt out the reason for the call. As Ben stuttered and stammered, Efrem interrupted, "Oh, you're the friend of Ben Mintz ... I'd love to speak at your Y event," he said, "give me all the particulars, you know, date and time and things."

At the breakfast two weeks later, Efrem greeted me warmly as I introduced him to various community volunteers and staff members. How is it you know Mr. Zimbalist, the president of the Y wanted to know?

I fly-fish with his wife, I explained.

FISHING REPORT: PESCA MAYA 2023

(NOT JUST ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE)

by Marshall Bissett

"This was definitely one of the best trips ever," said Bob Yokoi after a week of chasing tarpon, snook, bonefish and permit at the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico's Ascension Bay. The week kicked off appropriately on Cinco de Mayo with a seafood meal in Cancun and a truly scary Uber ride back to the hotel.

With 14 trips in 16 years, Bob and "Smoother" Smyth have made this a staple of their fishing calendar. "It's better than a rock and roll tour," added Smyth with a touch of UK humor.

In his second year, club member Rick Russo overcame his horror of the two hour drive on what has been described as "the road that defies paving," by repeatedly winning the nightly poker games. Rick is also running for the local city council to improve all aspects of the Yucatan infrastructure. Aspiring stand up comedian and past SPFF Board member, Kevin Radanovich declared his hatred for permit fishing (and who could blame him) by nailing and very nearly landing a couple of monster sized snook. Newcomer Bill Woods impressed us with his drone operating skills, creating some truly amazing footage that will no doubt be aired in December. The group was filled out by my old friends and veteran anglers Cary Asper and Brian Dowd.



Pesca Maya has this year relocated to a 4 bedroom home on the beach called Casa Celeste. With its ultra comfy couches, deck chairs and stylish appointments, it made for an atmosphere filled with after fishing games and storytelling. A short walk through the undergrowth to the waiting guides and pangas was amazingly free of mosquitoes. The guides, now very familiar to the group, worked hard to find fish and get the boat into favorable casting position. A new catch phrase started to emerge. We started to hear the guides say what sounded like "chicken fly" which later turned out to be "check your

fly." This soon became a running gag.

This is a fishery known for surprises and this week was no exception. As Kevin and I were fishing for juvenile tarpon (up to 40 pounds), without warning a tarpon of about 125 pounds (guide estimate) swam alongside the boat a rod tip's length away and promptly bit through my fly line. I also learned the local practice of handlining using a small live jack or snapper to catch huge cruising barracuda. Pleased with my success, I proudly told Smoother that fly rods were no longer necessary. "Except you need a twelve hundred dollar rod to catch your bait," he countered. After a long day on the water, a few brave souls took a second panga out to a nearby flat at low tide



FISHING REPORT: PESCA MAYA 2023 (CONT.)

to find tailing schools of bonefish. These educated fish would only take the tiniest of flies on the longest leader. The sight of so many schools of fish in one lagoon always makes the heart race.

In my 25 years of visiting this beautiful place, I have seen many changes. The



original beach palapas were wiped out in Hurricane Dean and the main dining room palapa has been rebuilt following other hurricanes. A previous structure where we spent many happy seasons (Casa Seclusion) is slowly being eroded and will soon collapse into the ocean. (See photo). The beach seems to be eroding at a rate of about 10 feet a year, the result of climate change and the melting of the ice caps. The dramatic



increase in sargasso grass has also been attributed to higher water temperatures. On the upside, tarpon love that muddy, weed tinged water.



As we all piled into the van for the three hour and mostly bumpy ride back to Cancun airport, we looked back on a truly harmonious few days in excellent company, superb Mexican food (thanks Martha!) and some exciting fishing.



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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