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ZOOM GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

MASTERING THE SHORT GAME with Landon Mayer

by Marshall Bissett

One of the top guides in the Western United States, Colorado guide Landon Mayer makes a welcome return to the SoCal speaker circuit. His new video-enhanced program will show that the best fish are often closer than you think. Most anglers wade into the fish they are trying to catch, or assume they are on the far side of the river. As the program will show, trophy fish are often less than a rod's length away. Observation and a stealthy approach are often the key to a successful day.

Landon Mayer's angling success is fueled by an addiction to pursuing large trout with small flies and lightweight fly-fishing equipment. Mayer enthusiastically teaches and demonstrates his techniques and on-river knowledge and has developed innovative strategies for sighting, hooking, and landing selective trout. He shares these tips and secrets in his books and DVD's. Landon's passion for fly-fishing has allowed him to make several



(Program continued on next page)

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

noteworthy contributions to the sport on and off the water. This has included travels to fly-fishing related organizations of the Mid-Atlantic, West, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and Southern states, as well as teaching through guided trips, fly-fishing classes, presentations, and demonstrations of his unique techniques. Mayer has been guiding in Colorado full time on the South Platte River for the last 22 years, and one full season on the Nak Nek River in AK. He resides with his wife, Michelle, and their four children in Florissant, Colorado.



Landon was born and raised in Colorado Springs where he began his fly fishing career in the 6th grade when his middle school offered fly casting lessons. Throughout his teens, Landon's love of the sport grew when he spent all his free time hanging around local fly shops and watching VHS tapes by Gary Borger and Doug Swisher until the tapes actually wore out! After graduating high school, Landon pursued a career as a full time guide in Colorado, learning from great Colorado anglers such as Ed Engle, Pat Dorsey and fly tyer John Barr. He also spent one year guiding in Alaska on the Naknek River. During this same time, Landon began publishing articles in magazines such as *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, *High Country Angler*, *Southwest Fly Fishing* and *American Angler*.

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 2)

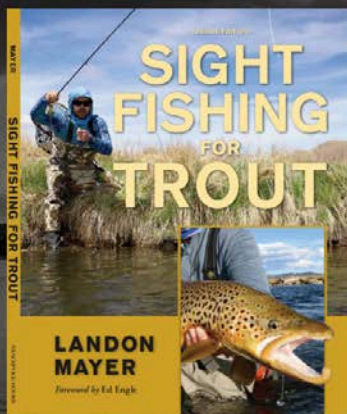
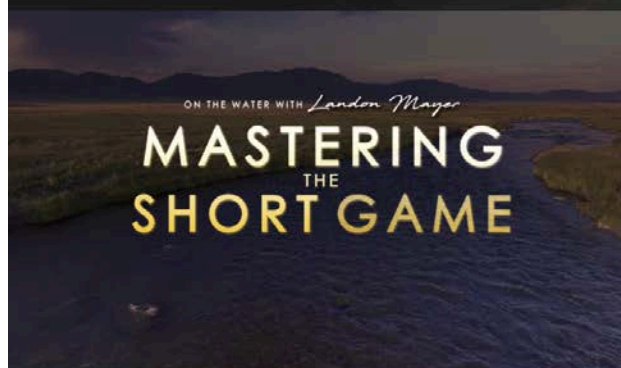
Mayer is a contributing writer for *Fly Fisherman* and *High Country Angler* magazines. His contributions also have been featured in publications such as *Fly Rod and Reel*, *American Angler*, *Southwest Fly Fishing*, *Field and Stream*, and *Fish and Fly* magazines. As an ambassador in the fly-fishing industry, Mayer represents several lines including Simms Fly Fishing apparel and is a royalty fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is also an advisory team member of Simms, R.L.Winton, Bauer, Scientific Angler, Smith Optics, Fish Pond, Yeti Coolers, Regal Vise, and Casio Pro Trek watches.

Landon's techniques are contained in his best known publications - *The Hunt for Giant Trout: 25 Top Locations in the US to Catch a Trophy Trout*, *Trout Tips: A Guide's Secrets, Tactics and Techniques*, *Colorado's Best Fly Fishing*, *Sight Fishing for Trout*, and *How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life* - in addition to three DVDs: *Landing the Trout of Your Life* and *Weapons of Bass Production*, both of which also feature John Barr, and his new film, *Mastering the Short Game*.



Together with his wife Michelle (who shares his passion for the sport) and their four children, Landon continues to live near his home waters of the South Platte River in Colorado where he teaches fly fishing through guiding and fly fishing classes; he also appears around the country giving presentations of his innovative, successful and popular techniques. You can learn more about this great fly fisher by going to: www.landonmayer.com

Order Landon's New Books and Video



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

I'm afraid that, like everyone else, 2020 felt to me like a nightmare that won't end. I've just received the awful news that Ed Stimson, an SPFF member since 2011 and a valued member of our fly tying group, as well as a genuine good guy, passed away. My Dad had an unerring sense of who the good guys were; he divided people into *menches*, Yiddish for



good people, and *phonies*, people you can't trust. He would do business with a *mench* on a handshake but wouldn't trust a *phony* for anything. Ed was a *mench* and I will miss him, his welcoming

manner and easy personality. I'm sure others who knew him well will have more to say in the coming weeks. He joins the others we've lost this year in our memories of camaraderie, good times and fellowship.

So far, I haven't heard of anyone in the club having contracted Covid-19 and for that I'm grateful. We have had to curtail our regular activities, learn the art of the Zoom and dip our toes into the world of online auctions. I expect this to continue for most of the next year, in spite of the welcome news that vaccines are becoming available. However, we can't let our guards down now since it will be several months, at least, until vaccinations are available to most of us and they won't impact the pandemic until at least 75% of the

population is vaccinated. With the party goers and anti-vaxxers denying reality this may take quite a while. Therefore, we can't stop the uncomfortable, annoying and depressing steps of masking, social distancing and hand washing for the foreseeable future. If we all do that, perhaps we can start to get together in the latter half of 2021 and resume our normal club activities.

As I start my second term as President, I'm reminded of how important it is that we continue to honor and learn from our most senior colleagues, while welcoming younger men and women, and boys and girls for that matter, to join, and for younger members to step up to leadership positions. I see my job for this year as one of mentoring members to take over in the coming years when we, the gray and the bald, age out. I encourage anyone who would like to participate in Board or other club activities to contact me. I'm sure we can find something for you to do that will be fun and fulfilling.

Fly tying and casting practice have been safe activities and a godsend for me. Michael Peratis has continued to help willing fly tiers learn the art of Zooming our lessons, technically more challenging than you would think, so they can teach as well and we are making good progress. I encourage you to join us on Wednesday evenings for tying and the first and third Saturday mornings of the month for casting, masked and safely apart of course.

Finally, I continue to remind you to reach out to each other, to check in to make sure we all are OK, both physically and mentally. Isolation is as dreadful a disease as any virus.

Tight lines!

SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR 2021

by Marshall Bissett

I am pleased to announce that we have a final speaker schedule for 2021. The speakers are selected by the program chairs of the seven participating Clubs in the area. Each season we try for the right blend of local vs exotic, fresh vs salt, veteran vs newcomers. Having many meeting on ZOOM has made the task a little easier, but scheduling conflicts occur, and the best presenters are usually booked well in advance. We are pleased to welcome newcomers the Buhler Brothers, Dave Smith from San Diego and Idaho guide Karlie Rowland. Charles Jardine, a longtime favorite of the Club circuit, promises this will be his "last hurrah" but we have heard that before. It is likely that meetings will be on ZOOM at least through June of 2021. The schedule is:

January 21st Landon Mayer –
Mastering the Short Game

February 18th Tony Rheinhart –
Fishing from a Drift Boat

April 22nd Jason Randall – When
All Else Fails – Catching Trout on
Slow Days

May 20th Skip Morris – Make Dry
Fly and Emerger Fishing Work

June 17th The Buhler Brothers –
Streamers for Big Fish in So Cal

July 20th Dave Smith – Euro
Nymphing in Local Waters

October 21st Charles Jardine –
Beyond the Chalk – UK Fishing

November 18th Karlie Rowland –
Fishing Henry's Fork

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President.....Richard Ress
Vice President.....Bernie Ecker
Secretary.....Jody Martin
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Calendar MaintenanceTom Wright
CommunicationsBill Luddy
Conservation.....Bill Luddy
EducationSteve Ebersold
Education Co-Chair.....Michael Peratis
Head Fly Casting

InstructorMarshall Bissett
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Newsletter EditorEd Swanson
Outings.....Jim Fleisher
Programs.....Marshall Bissett
RafflesSteve Esgate
Social MediaCatrina White
Special Projects.....Glenn Short
SWCFFI RepresentativeTom Wright
Technical AdvisorAran Dokovna
Web MasterRen Colantoni
Women's ProgramsCatrina White

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 always welcomes new members. Our newest member is:

Mark Clarke

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

by Catrina White

SPFF's Women's Programs offers support and friendship, as well as top notch programming that is not found in other Fly Fishing clubs!

Due to necessary public health concerns, all programming is currently via zoom. Programming can be also be accessed on our Facebook group page, Women of Sierra Pacific (found under the umbrella page of SPFF Foundation).

This group is open to all who identify as female. It is not to exclude the men, but rather to provide a safe, supportive environment for us to learn, have fun, fish, tie flies, and share our stories as women in one great sport.

We look forward to meeting you all in person when it is safe to do so.

For any questions, comments or to be added to the email list for notification of upcoming programs, please send an email to womensprograms@spff.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

by Catrina White

Please join us on our social media sites:

Facebook - SPFF Foundation

Instagram - SPFF Foundation

We have many groups under the umbrella heading of SPFF Foundation to suit your needs from making new fishing friends, Women's programs, participate in programming live on Facebook, and other great groups such as rod building, fly tying, and trade/barter/sell your fishing equipment.

We have over 100 likes and followers to our page with plenty of content to keep you busy!

We look forward to seeing you virtually!

For questions, comments, and suggestions, Please contact: Socialmedia@SPFF.org

SPFF LIBRARY

by Tom Wright

Learn more about fly fishing. Please visit our vast Fly Fishing Library online at [spff.org/Library Catalog](http://spff.org/LibraryCatalog).

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	2
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	6
Board Meeting (remote)	7
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	13
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	16
SWC FFI Winter Quarterly Meeting	16
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	20
General Meeting and Presentation with Landon Mayer via ZOOM	21
Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	27

FEBRUARY

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Virtual Fly Tying via ZOOM	3
Board Meeting (Remote)	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	6
General Meeting and Presentation with Tony Rheinhardt via ZOOM	18
SWC Trout Rodeo Tournament	20
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	20

MARCH

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Board Meeting (Remote)	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	6
General Meeting and Fundraiser via ZOOM	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	20

MEDIA NIGHT REPORT

by Glenn Short

The 2020 SPFF Media Night has come and gone, but those who joined our Zoom meeting had an opportunity to socialize [virtually] before announcements and a brief meeting conducted by our president, Rich Ress. Our club Zoom expert, Michael Schweit, facilitated our slide presentations via Zoom, enabling us to watch programs on fishing the Green River by Marshall Bissett, fishing the California Delta by Jody Martin, numerous trips by Aran Dokovna during the last decade with various club members, and a trip to New Zealand that Howard and Carol Rosen took a few years ago.

We concluded the evening with a two part slide show assembled by Glenn Short. Part one featured the winning photographs from our contest and the honorable mention photographs [see below]. Part two was a collection of photographs contributed by members mixed with Glenn's photographs from the last several years. Thank you Michael and everyone who contributed to the contest and the slide shows.

We will have another Media Night next year, so when you are out on the water, use your smartphone or camera to take pictures.

SPFF Photography Contest Winners

First Place: Frederick Russo, Golden Trout, South Fork of the Kern River

Second Place: Ellie Brittain, Hot Creek Gorge

Third Place: Howard Rosen, In Alaska with a King Salmon

Honorable mentions: John Bellasalma, Rosemary Ecker (2), Neal Hoffberg (2), Jody Martin, Joe Radocchio, Paul Riegert, Howard Rosen (2), Xan Rufus-Isaacs (2).

First place: Frederick Russo, Golden Trout, South Fork of the Kern River >

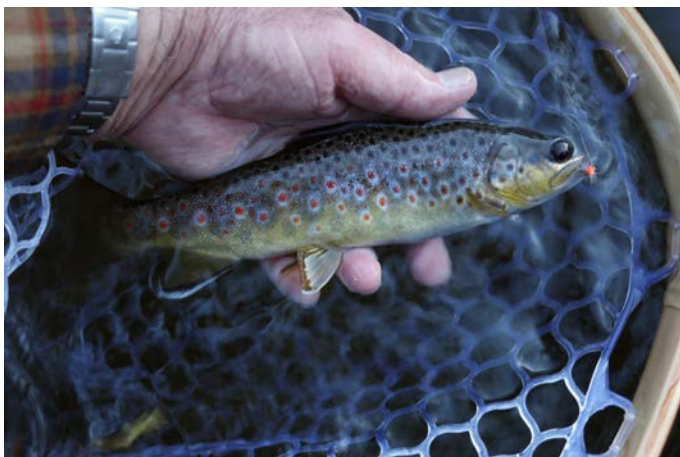


MEDIA NIGHT REPORT (CONT.)



< Second Place: Ellie Brittain,
Hot Creek Gorge

Third Place: Howard Rosen,
In Alaska with a King Salmon >



< Glenn Short, Brown Trout on a Purple Haze

FISHING REPORT: FALL UTAH OUTING

by Chris Taylor

The final Utah trip was scheduled for October 12, with Roger Knudsen, Kevin Larsen, Mike Woll, his 2 friends Ty and Vic joining me. I was delegated to watch the Covid lockdown reports. As it was, the motel owner indicated that the area was open and relatively safe from Covid, so we all quickly packed and headed to the town of Panguitch.

Roger and Kevin first stopped to wet a line at Yankee Meadows, located just outside of Parowan. Both found some success picking up a few Brookie's and Rainbows to 17". One Brookie was landed that measured about 20" which was, or that lake a monster!

Late in the afternoon, both moved to Panguitch Lake to give the evening hatch a look see. They found rising fish everywhere, as it seemed to be a callibaetis/midge hatch occurring. Several large Rainbows to 22" were landed, fishing a midge or callibaetis pattern.

I met Kevin and Roger the next morning at Panguitch Lake, with Mike Woll, Ty and Vic in tow. There was a slight breeze blowing and sunny. Kevin with his pontoon boat and electric motor configuration had no trouble zipping across the lake, while Roger brought his kayak and followed Kevin across to the weed beds. The breeze denied me from getting to far out, so I concentrated on the inside weed beds where I found fish in July. Kevin said he landed about 25 and Roger half as many. I came up zip without a single grab.

Roger decided to head to Lee's Ferry, Arizona, while Kevin headed home the following day. I took the remaining 3 guys to Yankee Meadows Reservoir. Mike and Vic had to leave due to truck issues, while Ty and I stayed and fished. I picked up 3 Rainbows to 16" and 1 Brookie that measured 18". Ty landed a 14" Rainbow for his first time fly fishing!

The next day, I took the guys to Paragonah Reservoir, also known as Red Creek Reservoir. There was a callibaetis hatch occurring and the lake was alive with rising Tiger Trout. Ty and I fished in float tubes while Mike and Vic fished from the bank. We all landed Tigers of varying sizes using Black Wooly Buggers, Callibaetis patterns, and Rainbow Warrior midge patterns. Most of the fish were in the 14" to 16" range and looked fat and healthy.

We next went to Panguitch Lake, but found it blowing hard and white caps, so the day was a bust. We all went in our own directions. I went to explore above the town of Beaver in the Tushar Mountains. I came to Beaver Creek, a past favorite, and gave it try. I had only 1 fish rise to the fly. As it was, the stream was low and so no other fish was to be found. I suspect the bait guys have depleted the stream unfortunately.

Paragonah Reservoir was our next day choice, expecting the same success as before. Ty and Vic had left for home. Mike and I decided to give Paragonah another try. I landed 7 Tigers using Callibaetis emergers float tubing, while Mike fished off shore and landed 6 using black wooly buggers.

The last day, I was left to my own devices as Mike left for Salt Lake City to meet his son. My choice that day was back to Paragonah Reservoir for Tiger Trout. I arrived with only a few rises observed. Not to be discouraged, I kicked out dragging a Peacock Bugger. That was the hot ticket as I landed 7, the largest a 18" Tiger! I got several grabs and long line releases during the day. The wind eventually kicked up in the afternoon and forced me to kick a hasty retreat.

Though not as many fish to the net compared to June and July, it was still an enjoyable trip.

Tight lines!

CASTING CORNER

by Jody Martin, SPFF Secretary and FFI SWC Casting Director

“Casting Corner” is a new feature that I hope will be of interest to anyone wishing to improve or learn more about their fly casting. Each month there will be a new topic or suggestion to keep you (or start you) thinking about your casting.

This month’s question: What are the differences between a “fast” rod and a “slow” rod, and in what instances would you prefer one over the other? Is a “medium” flex rod a compromise between the two? If so, why not use one of those all the time?

Feel free to email me with your answers, questions, or suggestions for future topics! jmartin.nhm@gmail.com

2021 CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING SEASON HAS STARTED



The 2021 sport fishing season has started, and 2021 sport fishing licenses are available now. CDFW reminds anglers to abide by all state and local health guidelines regarding non-essential travel and physical distancing.

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY SPFF!

by Ed Swanson

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the SPFF. Below is a description of the formation of the club from our website. If any members have memories, photos, newsletters or other information from the early days of our club, please forward them to me at etswanson@att.net for use in future occasional pieces celebrating our birthday.

From our website:

The genesis of the Sierra Pacific FlyFishers occurred in 1971 when Steve and Jeff Ellis, owners of the Fisherman's Spot, a general fishing tackle store in Van Nuys, California, conceived the idea of the need for, and viability of, a fly fishing club in the San Fernando Valley.

Store customers, some of whom were members of other fly fishing clubs and thus familiar with issues that seem to confront all non-profit volunteer organizations including funding, board development, and committee structure were consulted. Customers included Jordan Lagman, whose input on the future club's purpose and goals was both timely and valuable and J. Stanley Lloyd, an ardent conservationist and long-time fly fisher who was active in other clubs as well as being an officer in the Federation of Fly Fishermen, later renamed Federation of Fly Fishers.

Two organizational meetings were hosted by the Ellis Brothers at the Fisherman's Spot in late January and February of 1971. Subsequently, the first general meeting was held at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Recreation Center club room in March. At the time, Lagman was elected Founding President. Other officers included John Crisp, Ty Estridge, Mike Silverman, Fred Lawson, Bennett Mintz and Steve Ellis. The Fisherman's Spot volunteered to serve as the club's mailing address.

Almost immediately, the club began its community service and education with free fly-tying classes taught by Lagman, plus various clean-up and conservation projects, family picnics and activities.

From Bennett Mintz: >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Photo circa 1980 of the following:

Front row: Bernie Price, Steve Ellis,
Dr. Dan C. Bird:

Back row: Karl Schurz (past pres.), John Crisp (past pres.) Bruce Kaump, Bennett Mintz (past pres.).



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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14411 Burbank Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818.785.7306

Gangadin Restaurant

12067 Ventura Place
Studio City, Ca 91604
(818) 509-0722

Orvis

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626.356.8000

Pat Jaeger

Eastern Sierra Guide Service
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760.872.7770

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