



CONTENTS

Live General Meeting:

Fishing the Henry's Fork	
...Idaho with Karlie Roland	.....1
President's Message	.....3
Media Night Programs Needed	.....4
Membership	.....4
SPFF Event Calendar	.....4
Fly Tying	.....5
Directors & Committee Chairs	.....5
SPFF Auction	.....6
Women's Programs	.....7
Casting Corner	.....8
Casting Events at FFI Virtual	
Expo Nov. 5-7	.....9
FFI Virtual Expo 2021	.....10
Baja Adventure: A Tropical	
Agatha Christie Tale	.....12
SPFF Receives FFI	
McKenzie Cup Award	.....13
Michael Peratis Receives FFI	
Fly Tying Teaching Award	..13
Joel "Jody" Martin Wins 2021	
Robert Traver Fly-Fishing	
Writing Award	.....13
California Goes to 365-Day	
Format	.....13
Support Our Sponsors	.....14
SPFF Nomination Submission	
for McKenzie Cup Award	15

SPFF RESUMES LIVE MEETINGS: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

November marks the return of live dinner meetings at our normal venue, Monterey at Encino Glen. Because of the prohibitive cost of banquet style dinners, we are moving to the smaller room next to the bar by the golf course. We will no longer pre-order dinner but be able to order meals or just drinks from their standard menu and receive separate checks. An email blast will include a copy of this menu. We will still have the same raffles, exciting announcements and fantastic speakers. Proof of vaccination is needed to attend this dinner meeting. SPFF hopes that you understand that the safety of our members is of paramount importance. Thanks for your understanding. Show up at 6.30 for drinks, order dinner, and the presentation will start at 8.00 pm.

FISHING THE HENRY'S FORK IDAHO with KARLIE ROLAND

by Marshall Bissett

The Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho is rightly known as one of America's Blue Ribbon trout fisheries. Located in Southeastern Idaho, it is about 127 miles long and is also known as the North Fork of the Snake River. Jim Klug of Yellow Dog Adventures describes it well. "People go to Henry's Fork because of its hallowed waters. It's legendary – known as a technical river with big fish, and famous for its hatches." If you're a trout fisherman, you need to make the pilgrimage to the Henry's Fork. Our November presenter Karlie Rowland is one of the most requested guides on this famous stretch of water. She will guide us through the seasons and hatches of a river that has become

SPFF WINS FFI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CLUB AND MICHAEL PERATIS WINS FFI FLY TYING TEACHING AWARD: SEE PAGE 13

(Program continued on next page)

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

a favorite of many destination anglers in Southern California. Often touted as “technical” water, Karlie will unlock the secrets she has learned in her many years of guiding. For the dry fly fisherman, the river offers outstanding hatches through gentle flowing ranch land, timber covered canyons and spring creek like sections, with tributaries that are spectacular fisheries in their own right.

Karlie grew up with a fly rod in one hand and a camera in the other. She spent her summers in Last Chance, Idaho, where her family has fished the Henry's Fork for multiple generations. Over the years, Karlie has traveled from the Rockies to the Pacific northwest to Patagonia as part of her ongoing search for trout, salmon and steelhead. A tireless advocate for fisheries conservation and watershed protection, a passionate angler and educator, and a guide with extensive experience leading fly-fishing schools and hosted travel, she now works for TroutHunter on the river that started it all - the Henry's Fork. Karlie is on the Hardy Rods & Reels pro staff.



Here is a link to a video she did for the FlyFishing Film Tour when she moved to the Henry's Fork:

<https://flyfilmtour.com/trailers/where-it-all-started/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

I'm writing this as I prepare my gear for the nymphing clinic this weekend, which will be history as you read this. It's very exciting to have an official, unlimited club event, something that has been sorely lacking for the past year and a half. The response has been excellent, filling our original quota and adding more spots as instructors stepped up to help. We will be teaching both traditional and Euro nymphing techniques, so there's something for everyone except the die hard dry fly only anglers (yes, you, David).



Even those who don't want to nymph were welcome to attend and fish as they like, and to join us Saturday night for our traditional dinner. It all feels so... normal

What has not been so encouraging has been the poor

attendance at our regular meetings. Fly tying, which has been the bright light of our year, has tapered off despite our having a wonderful venue for in person tying and excellent Zoom connections for those who can't come in person. Even I have been asked to tie a fly next week, and I'm hardly the best tier in the club. If you tie flies, there's no reason not to come and share your experience with us. You don't have to be Steve Fernandez caliber (I'm certainly not) to tie with us. We're very friendly and don't bite, other than at A&W for the optional Chinese dinner before tying.

Even more discouraging has been attendance at our monthly meetings. I know we're all sick

to death of Zoom and didn't sign on to be data entry clerks. Our October speaker, new to us with a refreshing presentation on surf and carp fishing, drew all of 18 attendees. This is not only discouraging but embarrassing for a club with our membership.

This month we're having our first in person dinner since the pandemic began, with an outstanding speaker. Dinner is optional and a la carte, rather than the fixed price dinners in the past. You can come, have a drink if you like, eat what you like and resume the camaraderie that has been the glue keeping our club together. Our only requirement is that you be fully vaccinated, since we will be eating without masks at an indoor venue. I'm sorry if this isn't popular with a few members, but the health and safety of all of us is my primary concern.

What happens in the next few months will determine the future of SPFF. Either we come together once more, continue to bring in new members and share what we have learned and enjoyed, or the club will wither and die, slowly but surely. We have been doing this for 50 years; I have no doubt we can continue and grow if we all participate. It's up to you.



MEDIA NIGHT PROGRAMS STILL NEEDED

by Glenn Short

Can you create a presentation to share your fly fishing adventures? Our annual media night will be at the December dinner meeting on December 16th. There is still time to create a presentation!

We need slide shows and videos of approximately five minutes length. You probably already have the program you need to create your show on your computer, and they are easy to use to create a presentation. You can move photos on your phone to your computer, so there are no excuses. (You can Google the instructions for your devices.)

We are looking forward to seeing where you've been and what you've been catching—or trying to catch. Please create a presentation and join us at the meeting! If you have any questions, email Glenn Short <glenn.short@gmail.com.

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. Please welcome and introduce yourselves to our latest new members:

Robert Jorgenson
Sachi Worrall

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom)	3
Board Meeting	4
FFI Virtual Expo 2021	5-7
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	6
Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom)	10
Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom)	17
General Meeting (Live!) and Presentation: "Fishing the Henry's Fork" with Karlie Rowland	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	20
Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom)	24

DECEMBER

Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom).....	1
Board Meeting	2
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	4
Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom)	8
Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom)	15
General Meeting & Presentation: Club Members' Fishing Adventures	16
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18

JANUARY

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	1
FLY-BUY 2022 @ Long Beach Casting Club	22



FLY TYING

by Michael Peratis

OK fly tiers – you know who you are. Up until April, 2020 you'd show up at Mt. Aire most every week for our tying sessions. Those meetings always included a lot of camaraderie, tying help, funny and sometimes serious conversation, laughs, and very often an added bonus of cookies or some homemade delight for all to share. Those were the "good old days" where we'd meet for the cramped parking, set up our tables, share our fly tying materials and tell fly fishing lies stories.

Then came Covid-19, forcing our weekly tying meetings onto Zoom. For about 17 months you all could sit around at home in your underwear (if your camera was aimed correctly) and tie our fly of the week. It appears that way too many of you got used to that and decided to continue to stay at home and tie on Zoom or Facebook even though we now have a terrific place to meet in-person for fly tying. Two huge TV screens, tons of parking and you don't have to set up tables and chairs.

Every week I send a Zoom meeting invitation to the out of area tiers who joined us over those 17 months as well as the SPFF members in the tying group. I'm encouraging all you former fly tying 'regulars' to begin showing up at our in-person meetings. It's pretty damn discouraging to prepare and set everything up have only 6 or 8 people attend when we used to have from 15 to as many as 30!

Come on folks, when Wednesdays roll around, put your clothes on, hop in your car & **show up!**

If you have questions or would like more information please contact me at education2@spff.org.

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 Co-Chair	Michael Peratis
Head Fly Casting	
Instructor.....	Marshall Bissett
Librarian.....	Tom Wright
Membership	Jay Bushore
Newsletter Editor	Ed Swanson
Outings	Jim Fleisher
Programs	Marshall Bissett
Raffles	Steve Esgate
Social Media.....	Catrina White
Special Projects.....	Glenn Short
SWCFFI Representative.....	Tom Wright
Technical Advisor.....	Aran Dokovna
Web Master.....	Ren Colantoni
Women's Programs.....	Catrina White



SPFF AUCTION

SPFF AUCTION NEWS!

Dear Club Members,

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who has been kind enough to donate items to SPFF's past auctions. Due to your contributions our results were very successful and I hope you enjoyed the experience.

In preparation for our Winter 2022 Auction, we are now seeking items for donation.

Here are some types of items which work well in an on-line auction:

- 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
- 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 will be available to receive donations at the first Saturday casting clinic each month or by mail. In addition, I usually attend the weekly fly-tying sessions on Wednesday evenings. Let me know, we'll work something out.

Cut off for donations is January 31, 2022.

Rich Hoffman
Development Chair
Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers
Email: "RWHFFMN@AOL.COM"

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

by Catrina "Cat" White

Hello to our Women's Programs population.

Where did this year go? How can it possibly be the month of November?

While I took a little vacation from Women's Programs, I had some interesting interactions with many fly fishers which made me think about all the wonderful programs I have produced and will continue to produce.

I also have heard from a few of you about programs you would like to see in the future, and different educational opportunities.

Primarily is funding for these programs. I am going to begin a fundraising campaign with an auction of a few items. The biggest item is a 5 weight 8 foot rod donated by bamboo rod builder, J.W. Healy. This normally would retail for \$1,000.00 but we will be starting bids at half of that price. More details about the auction to come.

Now this is the biggest event of all, and I am sure that so many people will enjoy this:

Fly Fishing Class Just for Women!

So many of us need a back to basics fishing class, right? Well, look no further! This is a beginning Fly Fishing class for only Women. The first two classes will be Virtual, so if you have a friend who would like to join in from another state, or even another country, they are welcome to join.

This class will be taught Virtually by **Master Casting Instructor, Mary Ann Dozer**. She will keep you entertained and give you lots of ways to remember the casting basics. Plus, you will have access to her MAD book.

The second weekend is optional and will be held in person near beautiful Palm Springs, California. We will be socially distanced with masks. The instructor for the in person event is **Molly Semenik**, who is also a **Master Casting Instructor**. How lucky are we to have these great women to teach us?

If you have questions, or would like more information, please feel free to contact CAT at:

Womensprograms@SWCFFI.org Or: Womensprograms@SPFF.org

Have a wonderful Holiday, and tight lines!

CAT



CASTING CORNER

by Jody Martin

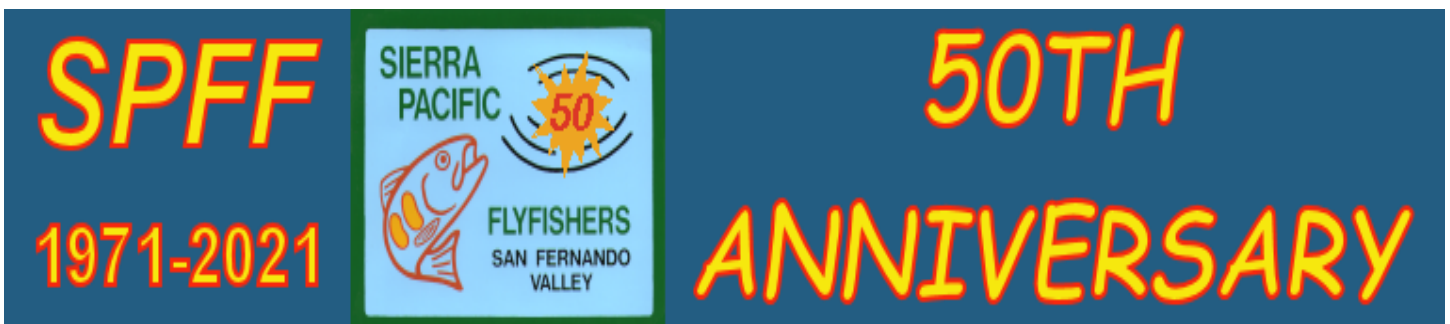
SPFF Secretary and SouthWest Council Casting Chair

Answer to last month's question: That one simple thing you can do? Regularly cleaning your fly line! You'll be amazed at the difference that a simple line cleaning will make in your casting. It does not have to be a completely thorough cleaning using a commercial line cleaner. Just wiping the line down with a damp rag will help. Some people carry small restaurant-supplied "towelettes" (the kind they give you at BBQ restaurants) and use these to wipe the line down regularly (they take up very little room in your vest or pack). But for a really clean line, you can strip the line off into a bucket with warm water and dilute mild soap, let it soak, and then rinse it in a separate bucket or even with a wet towel as you wind it back on. For further smoothness, you can even wipe down the line with a micro-abrasive cloth such as Rio's Wonder Cloth or Scientific Anglers line cleaning pad, or the pad that comes with the Orvis Zip Juice cleaner. You can even treat the line with a proprietary line-cleaning product such as Orvis's Zip Juice or Rio's AgentX fly line dressing (only for floating line). See this YouTube video for a very thorough, three-step approach to a more thorough cleaning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsCDjSdrpOA> I would avoid products made for the auto industry (such as some Armor All and Turtle Wax products). They can impart incredible slickness and add yards to your casts, and I have used them myself in the past with great success (specifically the Turtle Wax "Quick and Easy Inside Out Protectant"). But there's always a slight danger using any product that is not specifically made for fly lines (they can change the formula without telling us, and some of these petroleum-based products could damage fly line), and I think it's worth the extra cost to make sure the product you're using is made for fly lines. Not everyone will agree with me on this point.

This month's question: Your casts are reaching your target, more or less, but you find that the fly is landing a little too hard, slapping the water and making too large of a splash compared to what you would like it to do. What might you be doing on your cast that could cause this?

Feel free to email me with your answers, questions, or suggestions for future topics!

jmartin.nhm@gmail.com



CASTING EVENTS AT FFI VIRTUAL EXPO NOV. 5-7

by Jody Martin

Hi everyone! By now I hope you are all registered for the upcoming **FFI Virtual Expo** (November 5-7)!

There are many casting-related presentations scheduled for the Expo, and you will want to check out all of the titles in advance to plan your days. Note that some sessions have a cost associated with them, whereas others are free with your registration for the Expo. I would particularly like to bring your attention to the following casting-related sessions:

CAST 01: A Review of North American Casting Styles: Keith Richard and Todd Heggsted

Description: The pros and cons of four of the most applicable casting styles utilized by the majority of fly casters (tournament casting will be excluded) will be covered along with potential injuries casters should be mindful of avoiding. (\$25)

CAST 03: The Novice Caster's Guide to Loop Formation and Line Control: Tim Lawson

Description: Stop hoping for the next good cast and learn the casting mechanics that will ensure the formation of a loop that produces maximum distance and accuracy with the minimum of effort. Learn how to make the line go where you want it to go. (\$25)

CAST 04: Virtual Video Casting Analysis Using OnForm: Willy George

Description: This is a two session workshop on 11/05/2021 (Part A) and 11/7/2021 (Part B) from 3:00 to 5:00 PM ET both days. This casting workshop is designed for all casting skill levels and casting instructors. Students are asked (expected) to attend both days to benefit from the instruction (read on). On Friday, we will cover key elements of the casting stroke and introduce a video casting analysis tool called OnForm. Volunteers who want to have their casting form analyzed will take videos of their casts on Saturday using a free version of the OnForm app that the instructor will send them. Then on Sunday, the entire student group, including the volunteers, will listen to the feedback session with the Master Casting Instructor while watching the on-screen analysis of the casting videos using the OnForm app. This workshop will teach you multiple ways to improve your casting technique through video casting analysis including self-improvement, virtual remote learning, and face-to-face casting lessons. (\$50 for both sessions)

CAST 11: Trout Spey – A Wonderful New Dimension for Casting and Fishing to Trout: Bruce Williams and Whitney Gould

Description: This program is designed for intermediate and above casters with some two-hand experience. We will present fishing situations and casting solutions to help you get your fly in front of fish which may rarely see a fly. (\$25)

CAST 13: Live Casting Demonstration Seminar, Teach the Teacher: Dok Arvanites and the Pasadena Casting Club

Description: Learning to teach is a lifelong process. If you are interested in improving your teaching skills, have a look. We will cover techniques and tips for teaching individuals and groups, as well as diagnostic and correction ideas, regardless of your teaching experience. (Free with registration)

CAST 06: Methods of Teaching Beginner Fly Casting: Walter Simbirski and Vince Brandon

Description: This program targets instructors, guides, and others who teach beginners the basic cast. We discuss general principles and look at a number of methods used to teach the basic fly cast. We discuss general principles and look at a number of methods used to teach the basic fly cast. (\$25)

CAST 10: How to Teach Fly Casting: Macauley Lord

Description: We will watch and discuss videos filmed in OnForm, a motion-analysis application, in which Macauley demonstrates -- for beginners -- the pickup-and-laydown, false casting, and roll casting. He includes tips on how and where to position yourself and your students, and some simple cures for common casting errors. (\$25)

CAST 14: Mend the Line for Catch Success: Molly Semnik and Heather Hodson

Description: Molly Semnik and Heather Hodson have put together a program that not only includes live discussions with Molly, Heather and the participants, but power point illustrations and recently shot video, on-the-water and in-the-air, as well. Drag free floats will be discussed along with some great supportive video. (\$25)

I would also like to extend a special invitation to my own session on the "Spirituality of Fly Fishing," an exploration into why we fly fish rather than how. This session is on Saturday, November 6, at 11:00 am our time, and it is also free:

FFS 20: The Spirituality of Fly Fishing: Jody Martin and Bruce Williams

Description: This program, intended for fly fishers of all levels, addresses the "why" of fly fishing: the reasons for, and what we derive from, the sport. The healing, therapeutic, mentoring, and spiritual aspects of fly fishing are discussed, with examples of programs that employ fly fishing as a form of healing. (Free with registration)

I'll be presenting this with Bruce Williams, Chair of the FFI Casting Board of Governors, with input from Macauley Lord and others. Although not related (directly) to casting, I think (and hope) that it will be of interest to many of you.

FFI VIRTUAL EXPO 2021



<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Virtual-Expo>

Virtual Expo By Day



Pre-Expo Activities

Join us for workshops & auctions available prior to the Expo



November 5

Join Us for Day 1 of the FFI Virtual Expo 2021



November 6

Join us for Day 2 of the FFI Virtual Expo



November 7

Join us for Day 3 of the FFI Virtual Expo

FFI VIRTUAL EXPO

The Expo will feature over 150 opportunities to submerge yourself in every aspect of fly fishing, and you will have the chance to learn from experts all over the world. For a mere \$25, you will get access to over 100 free fly fishing workshops, presentations, and demonstrations. It's an opportunity you won't want to miss.

To register or learn more about the FFI Virtual Expo, follow the link below.

https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Virtual-Expo/Activities?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=september2021

FFI VIRTUAL EXPO 2021 (CONT.)



Saturday, 11/6/2021 8:00-11:00 AM PST

CAST13 LIVE FROM PASADENA CASTING CLUB! TEACH THE TEACHER | [FFI-EXPO LINK](#)

Presenter(s): Dok Arvanites, MCI, L2 Examiner & Leigh Ann Swanson, CI | Pasadena Casting Club

Description: Learning to teach is a lifelong process. If you are interested in improving your teaching skills, have a look. We will cover techniques and tips for teaching individuals and groups, as well as diagnostic and correction ideas, regardless of your teaching experience.

Class Fee: Free with Registration

Saturday, 11/6/2021 11:00am - 12-noon PST

FFS20 THE SPIRITUALITY OF FLY FISHING | [FFI-EXPO LINK](#)

Presenter(s): Jody Martin and Bruce Williams

Description: This program, intended for fly fishers of all levels, addresses the “why” of fly fishing: the reasons for, and what we derive from, the sport. The healing, therapeutic, mentoring, and spiritual aspects of fly fishing are discussed, with examples of programs that employ fly fishing as a form of healing.

Class Fee: Free with Registration

Sunday, 11/7/2021 10:00 - 11:30am PST

L08 YOUTH PANEL | [FFI EXPO LINK](#)

Presenter(s): Carl Crawford

Description: We'll interview a panel of young anglers (some who have come through SWCFFI Youth programs), discussing the importance of fly fishing in their development, their educational pursuits, and aspirations and how we may broaden opportunities for other youngsters. The discussion will give insight as to how clubs can develop their own Youth programs. Most importantly, these youngsters will inspire all viewers as to how important our work is in seeding the future development of our sport and environment!

Class Fee: Free with Registration

BAJA ADVENTURE: A TROPICAL AGATHA CHRISTIE TALE

by Marshall Bissett

I never wanted to be that guy who brings bad weather or bad luck to a fishing trip. Lately it seems I might be the guilty party. For the past five years I have been invited by a group of crime writers to be part of their September trip to the Sea of Cortez, the East side of Baja. Mostly trout fishermen, they have become seasoned at catching the big roosterfish, yellowfin tuna, dorado and the occasional marlin to be found near the little town of La Ventana south of La Paz. They are a fun group known as The Gauntlet, including CJ



Box, author of the Joe Pickett series and Big Sky and TJ Parker who wrote the masterful California Girl. Our host and outfitter, Gary Bulla, is well known as a presenter to local Clubs, an outstanding angler and a very old friend. In early September we enjoyed four calm sunny days with moderately good fishing, then, thanks to the Internet, we learn that hurricane Olaf is heading our way. "Didn't you do this last time?" asks Gary, reminding me that on a previous trip we lost a day to hurricane Newton. Without thinking I immediately assume responsibility and mutter an apology. Olaf grows to a category two hurricane and hits us with winds up to 100 mph and enough rain for a whole Los Angeles winter. For two



days we mope around the lodge telling stories, taking photos and getting better acquainted. We have real conversations no longer limited to fly choices and fish sizes. We discuss books we have read and others we should read. We make lists of the most overrated rock bands of all time. We find guitars and sing songs. We make videos of fly casting in a hurricane. Like characters in an Agatha Christie novel, we are trapped on the island but not fearful of the murderer on the

loose. Pretty soon we forget that we have come here to land big fish in that competitive male way and relax into a state free from disappointment. We enjoy the moment and make plans to do it all again next September. I realize that, as a fish landing exercise, this has been the worst trips ever but one that I would not have missed. On the last day, the gear packed, and the van loaded I remind myself that fishing trips are so much more than catching fish. If it takes the occasional act of nature to remind us of our place in the greater scheme of things, I don't mind being that guy who caused the hurricane.



SPFF RECEIVES FFI McKENZIE CUP AWARD

The Sierra Pacific Flyfishers was one of two clubs to receive the McKenzie Cup in 2021, which is given annually to the FFI club that has made the most outstanding contribution on behalf of the FFI. In presenting the award to the SPFF, FFI stated:

Sierra Pacific Flyfishers, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has been an outstanding supporter of FFI's Southwest Council for the past several years. Nine of the twenty-one Southwest Council directors and two of the three immediate past presidents of the Council have come from this club. The club also has been a strong promoter of the FFI Casting Instructor Certification program. Two of its members manage and operate the Southern California Speaker Circuit, which provides both local and nationally known speakers for 7 fly fishing clubs in the greater Los Angeles area.

A copy of the SPFF nomination submission to the FFI is attached to this issue, and details the numerous outstanding accomplishments of SPFF during the pandemic as well as in recent years.

MICHAEL PERATIS RECEIVES FFI FLY TYING TEACHING AWARD

At the same ceremony at which SPFF was awarded the McKenzie Cup, Michael Peratis received the 2021 FFI Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award. This award is presented to "an individual who excels in teaching the art of fly tying to tiers at all skill levels."

CONGRATULATIONS, MICHAEL!

JOEL "JODY" MARTIN WINS 2021 ROBERT TRAVER FLY-FISHING WRITING AWARD

The John D. Voelker Foundation and the American Museum of Fly Fishing have announced that the winner of the 2021 Robert Traver Fly-Fishing Writing Award is "Simon's Daughter" by our very own Dr. Joel (Jody) Martin. The story is about a twelve-year-old girl with multiple disabilities who connects mysteriously with wild brook trout when an adult friend takes her fly fishing in a mountain stream. The story will be published in the Spring 2022 edition of the *American Fly Fisher*, the journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing.

CONGRATULATIONS, JODY!

CALIFORNIA GOES TO 365-DAY FISHING LICENSE FORMAT

A big thank you to Bennett Mintz, who pointed out that by January 1, 2023, California will switch to a 365-day fishing license that will be good for 365 days from purchase rather than a calendar-based license. In addition, an electronic display option will be implemented.

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

Gangadin Restaurant

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

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

INTRODUCTION

Fifty years ago this year, the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers (SPFF) was founded in Encino, California with the objective “to promote the sport of flyfishing and to conserve our fisheries.” During these fifty years, SPFF has stayed true to its objectives, not even faltering due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic that erupted in March 2020. Indeed, faced with the inability to hold in-person meetings and programs last year, SPFF promptly focused on providing a panoply of virtual speakers, special programs and fly-tying on the internet, while making the necessary adjustments so that it could continue its traditional twice-monthly in-person free casting instruction in full compliance with all Covid-19 regulations. As a result of the focus, imagination and dedication of its members, SPFF was actually able to expand its overall activities during 2020, thereby continuing its tremendous success during recent years in the areas of casting, fly-tying, conservation, outreach, women’s programs, wounded veterans, assistance to other clubs, and in particular support for FFI and its Southwest Council.

FFI INVOLVEMENT

Southwest Council of FFI. With 23 clubs, the Southwest Council is tied with Texas as the largest Councils of the FFI. Of the 23 clubs in the Southwest Council, none has been more actively involved at the Council level in recent years than SPFF. Two of the three most recent past presidents of the Southwest Council were active members of SPFF (Bill O’Kelly and Michael Schweit), and the current president of the Southwest Council (Leigh Ann Swanson) has a dual membership with SPFF and Pasadena Casting Club. Eight other current directors of the Southwest Council are members of SPFF: Susi Wright (Secretary), Jody Martin (Casting), Debbie Sharpton (Conservation Director), Steve Fernandez (Fly Tying), Catrina White (Women’s Programs), Joe Radocchio (Education), Cece Rubin (Communications Chair), and Michael Schweit (Special Programs).

SPFF and its members appreciate the importance of the FFI and the Southwest Council and actively promote both. The front page of the SPFF website contains a link to the Southwest Council newsletters, and their activities and programs also are highlighted in the SPFF monthly newsletter as well as email “blasts” to all SPFF members for special Southwest Council events.

FFI CI Certification Program. SPFF has been a staunch promoter of the FFI CI certification program. In October of 2020, an interactive seminar titled “*The FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program: What is it and how can it help me?*” was created by SPFF under Jody Martin and offered via Zoom to members of all 23 clubs in the Southwest Council. SPFF also submitted needed edits to the CI Study Guide and to the CI Exam, as well as creating and providing a list of more than 200 practice questions – the first of its kind – for CI students studying for the written part of the CI Exam.

Other. SPFF members have provided substantial support for the Southwest Council’s annual FlyBuy (its major fundraising event), and for the Southwest Council’s participation in the five-day Fred Hall Show (which was not held in 2020).

INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER CLUBS

Southern California Speaker Circuit. SPFF has played a key role in the continuation of the Southern California Speaker Circuit. The circuit consists of seven southern California fly fishing clubs, who pool their resources to provide presenters for the clubs eight months a year. The circuit has gained an international reputation for the quality and diversity of the speakers, who have included legends of the industry such as Gary Borger, the late Lefty Kreh, Mel Krieger and Charles Jardine as well as the new generation of George Daniel, Devin Olsen and Karlie Roland. Presenters are given a rental car, meals allowance and their standard speaking fee, and the tour lasts ten days. A tour itinerary guides them through the intricacies of Southern California traffic. The speakers enjoy a weekend break when they can conduct seminars, fly tying or casting sessions, or enjoy the local fishing in the Eastern Sierra. Presenters are contracted at least a year in advance to speak at the seven Clubs within the greater Los Angeles area from Ventura to San Diego.

Since late 2017, the Southern California Speaker Circuit has been managed by Programs Chair and SPFF member Marshall Bissett, assisted by SPFF co-member Leigh Ann Swanson. These two persons book the presenters and take care of every detail from travel arrangements to assistance with program presentation. The standard of production has been set very high and the programs are central to each club's monthly meeting.

Other. As previously mentioned with respect to FFI Involvement, in 2020 SPFF created an interactive seminar titled *"The FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program: What is it and how can it help me?"* that was offered via Zoom to members of all 23 clubs in the Southwest Council.

SPFF also has offered joint programs with other local clubs from time to time, and its members participate in the annual Owens River cleanup.

PROMOTING THE SPORT OF FLY FISHING

SPFF, through its meetings and speakers (whether live or virtual), which are open to all, casting and fly-tying instruction for both members and non-members, and participation in Project Healing Waters, fosters interest in fly fishing. Two programs, however, are specifically tailored for promoting the sport of fly fishing: the annual SPFF Introduction to Fly Fishing course and the Getting Started Outing. In addition, SPFF expanded its social media presence in 2020, which now is flourishing.

SPFF Introduction to Fly Fishing Course. The Introduction to Fly Fishing (ITFF) course has been refined over the past twenty years. The sessions take place over several weeks followed by an optional graduation weekend in the Eastern Sierra that includes a dinner and presentation of certificates. The sessions, run by four FFI CI's with the help of trained Club volunteers, ties casting instruction to fishing methods. Casts include the pickup and lay down, the false cast and the roll cast. The classes take place on consecutive Saturday mornings with casting on Reseda Pond and classroom sessions in the nearby One Generation building. Younger students have their own class with their peer group. Knot tying, reading the river, equipment advice and river etiquette are topics covered in the comprehensive manual given to each student. The Club charges adults \$40 for the full course and kids under 18 are free; this includes Sierra Pacific

Membership, normally a \$65 annual fee. As a bonus, loaner rods are provided to students. The classroom sessions feature expert hands-on knot tying, an introduction to entomology and a detailed Q&A period. SPFF is justifiably proud of the service this provides to its local San Fernando Valley and surrounding communities.

SPFF Getting Started Outing. Held in July each year, The Getting Started Outing (GSO) is SPFF's most popular event of the year. Based in Mammoth Lakes, CA, the club has a combination of small group trips led by experienced members to a whole variety of "secret" fishing spots. These range from streams in Yosemite National Park, Devils Postpile National Monument, a group backpacking trip, float tube excursions and multiple streams and rivers in the Mammoth Lakes area. Some instructional programs also are offered (for a small fee) led by professional guides for those wanting to learn Tenkara fishing, streamer fishing, Euro Nymphing, afternoon hopper fishing, or just where the best fishing is taking place. The GSO provides SPFF's Introduction to Fly Fishing students another opportunity to increase their skills and provide them a real variety of fishing activities.

Social Media. The SPFF Foundation Facebook page currently has 10 groups as well as a community page. Approximately half of the Facebook page followers are from outside the club and hail from 39 states and eight countries. The two most active groups on the SPFF Facebook page are Women's Programs and Fly Tying (each described below). Other groups on the Facebook page include Rod Building, where members discuss rod building techniques, Fish Stories, and a Trading Post.

SPFF's Instagram page is popular both with SPFF members and fly fishers around the world. The page mirrors content offered on SPFF's Facebook page.

CASTING INSTRUCTION

Casting arguably is the most important of the many skills required for fly fishing. As Joan Wulff once wrote:

"Here is one final thought on the importance of being good at fly casting. There are two areas of expertise that are deemed most important to fishing success, and fly fishers often argue about which is more important. The first is knowing where the fish lie [reading the water] and the second is being able to present the fly (presentation/ casting). My thought is if you don't know where the fish lie but can cast well enough to cover all of the water with finesse, you are likely to solve the mystery and catch fish. If you know where the fish lie but can neither reach them or in some way present the fly to them, you are not even in the game." Joan Wulff, *Fly Casting Techniques* (1987).

For many years, instructors from SPFF have played a critical role in a variety of casting clinics and classes offered through the club itself or through the Southwest Council. These instructional opportunities have included both Beginning and Intermediate Casting Clinics and "Teach the Teachers" classes sponsored by the Southwest Council, as well as the annual SPFF "Introduction to Fly Fishing" class, SPFF's famous GSO (Getting Started Outing) each summer, nymphing clinics in the fall, and various other opportunities for learning how to cast a fly rod. Although other clubs nearly ceased their casting events during the pandemic of 2020, SPFF used

masks, social distancing, and other precautions, all in compliance with state and local medical regulations, to continue their casting clinics held twice monthly. On the first and third Saturday morning of every month, SPFF instructors gather at 27-acre Lake Balboa (in Anthony C. Bielsen Park, Encino, California) to offer advice and instruction to anyone who attends, whether or not a member of SPFF. Attendance generally averages 12-15 participants each Saturday clinic. Additional private casting lessons are offered free of charge to anyone asking for more help.

As previously mentioned, in October of 2020 an interactive seminar titled *“The FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program: What is it and how can it help me?”* was created by SPFF and offered via Zoom to members of all 23 clubs in the Southwest Council.

SPFF also provides casting instruction to veterans participating in its local Project Healing Waters chapter (described below).

FLY TYING

Fly Tying Class. SPFF presents a 6 week fly tying class for beginning tiers each spring. The classes are open to members and non-members alike. Each student has a skilled club member as personal instructor and coach for the course. Our graduates usually will join our fly tying group sessions to learn additional tying techniques and create more complex flies.

Fly Tying Group. The group, which includes both members and non-members, meets weekly throughout the year for a fly tying session with one of the group teaching a fly pattern. Members alternate being the “teacher.” SPFF also brings in top tiers from other clubs and the fly fishing community to come and teach.

Fly Tying and COVID-19. The Covid-19 pandemic struck right after the conclusion of SPFF’s 2020 beginner’s fly tying classes, forcing SPFF to halt the fly tying group’s in-person fly tying sessions. SPFF was concerned that its recent graduates wouldn’t have a chance to continue learning, so less than a month after Californians were ordered to shelter-in-place a weekly SPFF’s Michael Peratis organized a Zoom fly tying class. The weekly Zoom meetings were advertised to the other clubs of the Southwest Council as well as on the public SPFF Facebook page. What started out as an experiment with a small group has grown to **over 110** participants in less than a year, with 20 to 30 persons typically in attendance at any given meeting. All participants receive an advance schedule of the flies to be tied and the materials needed. The local fly shop, Fishermen’s Spot, receives a copy of the schedules and tries to have the required materials on hand. The programs are recorded and posted on the SPFF Facebook page for anyone who missed the program.

Community Outreach. SPFF members volunteer teaching fly tying (as well as casting) to military veterans at Project Healing Waters and actively volunteer for local Casting for Recovery programs.

WOMEN’S ACTIVITIES

In recent years, SPFF has made a concerted effort to reach out to women in the fly fishing community as well as to women who have an interest in becoming fly fishers. SPFF’s

Women's Programs, under the leadership of Catrina White, offers support and friendship as well as outstanding programs specifically tailored for women. SPFF utilizes two primary methods to accomplish this: programs designed by and for women, and SPFF's Facebook group page, Women of the Sierra Pacific.

Programs for Women. Numerous women's programs have been organized and presented by SPFF. All programs offered during the pandemic have been provided online. Two such programs offered last year were The Marvelous Mavens of Fly Fishing, in which three award-winning female panelists (Mary Ann Dozer, Molly Seminik and Leigh Ann Swanson) shared their fly fishing journey, including the steps they took to develop their flyfishing skills; and An Evening With Fanny Krieger, in which Fanny discussed the establishment of the International Women Fishers and shared thoughts about recruiting women and families in the sport of fly fishing.

SPFF also provided a series of pre-recorded events with women fly fishing industry business owners and women fly fishing clubs. Speakers included April Archer, who spoke of her business, SaraBella Fly Fishing, how it was founded, and the veterans she hires to build custom rods and flies for sale; and Laurie Lane of Trout and Company, who spoke of her business in Montana and her educational gifts for children and clothing designed for women.

Facebook. SPFF has an active Facebook group page specifically for women that connects women from around the world. The group is open to all who identify as female – not to exclude men, but rather to provide a safe, supportive environment for women to learn, have fun, fish, tie flies, and share their stories as women in one great sport. The Facebook group acts like a community bulletin board, posting not only women's programs produced by SPFF but also events from FFI Women Connect and other women's groups. Topics on this page include posts from smaller clubs across the nation as well as international groups and posts from individuals asking for advice about travel, gear and fly choices.

YOUTH

Scholarship Program. SPFF considers it important to inculcate an interest in and love for fly fishing in our youth. Each year SPFF offers one or more scholarships to high school seniors who have selected a college major that supports environmental sciences, wildlife aquatics, wildlife biology or other major related to SPFF values of fishing and recreating in a healthy environment.. In 2020, two scholarships were granted, one to a girl who hopes to become an environmental analyst or researcher and one to a boy who wants to do "something in fisheries and wildlife." One former scholarship winner wrote the following to SPFF in October of 2020:

Hello there,

I, Kate, received a college scholarship from your organization in 2009. I went to UC Berkeley and majored in Environmental Science specifically studying human-environmental interactions. Since college, I have worked as an outdoor educator and guide, sharing the outdoors with people of all ages and hoping to help them grow a passion for protecting our outdoor resources. I now live in Truckee, CA close to Lake Tahoe. In my free time, I enjoy mountain biking, backpacking, skiing, and of course fishing.

I hope this email finds you well and thank you again for supporting my education.

Casting. SPFF's Introduction to Fly Fishing course is offered free to kids under 18.

Program on the Next Generation. In 2020, SPFF offered a Zoom program on Fly Fishing: The Next Generation, in which three generations of fly fishers spoke about recruiting children into fly fishing, how to teach them and pass along the knowledge that has been learned to the generations to come. The youngest participant, 10-year-old Deighan Cherry, spoke about her experience facing male classmates who told her that girls don't fish. Ignoring them, she formed a club called Fly Girl Global which teaches the principles of 50/50 on the Water and encouraged her friends to join her for fly fishing and fly tying.

Outward Bound Adventures. SPFF also has supported the local Outward Bound Adventures (which is affiliated with the Southwest Council) both financially and with person-power.

CONSERVATION

SPFF supports conservation efforts by including speakers on conservation topics periodically at its monthly meetings (such as Jim Cox from Western River Conservancy), regularly publishing or reprinting articles on conservation topics in its newsletter, providing email "blasts" to encourage input by members on legislation or regulations impacting conservation or fly fishing, and providing financial assistance to selected conservation organizations or projects.

Demonstrating its strong commitment to conservation, SPFF's second most prestigious award that it grants is the *Order of the Jassid*, which is granted for extraordinary contribution to conservation. Past recipients include Bob Baiocchi (FFF Hall of Famer), Ardis Walker, and SPFF's own Debbie Sharpton (now conservation chair for Southwest Council).

OUTREACH TO VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: PROJECT HEALING WATERS

Veterans, especially those who come back from the front lines have very specialized issues that many non-veterans don't understand. SPFF has sponsored a local program of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. since 2007 under the outstanding leadership of David Hoffberg. Project Healing Waters is well known to FFI and is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing. Project Healing Waters veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), brain injuries, limited mobility, and blindness. The veterans have served in The Vietnam War, and most recently, Desert Storm. Several women who served as WAACs are very active in the SPFF's local program as well.

Classes are held twice a month (except during the current pandemic) at local VA facilities. There generally are approximately 15 veterans and six SPFF volunteers at each meeting. Meetings include classes on casting, fly pattern tying and fly rod building as well as viewing fly fishing videos. The fly tying classes are taught by SPFF members experienced at teaching fly tying. All tools and materials are provided to the veterans. Those with coordination difficulties are further supported by volunteers and those in their cohort.

The local program assists veterans who are interested in competition casting and rod building. One veteran in the program has won two awards in rod building and competition casting, and is hoping to continue with both activities when it is safe to meet in person again.

The local program also offers fly fishing retreats during the course of the year. All of the veterans' expenses for the retreats are paid, including transportation, lodging, fishing guides and meals.

Due to COVID, the local Project Healing Waters program has not been meeting in person, which created a serious barrier to the veterans' mental and physical health. Several volunteers stepped up during this time by reaching out to the veterans with regular phone calls. In addition, SPFF created a private Facebook group where the veterans are alerted to the many programs offered virtually and can find resources and activities during this trying time.

EDUCATION

Generally. Education permeates much of what SPFF does that has already been discussed, such as the speakers at its monthly meetings, articles in its monthly newsletter, fly casting and fly tying programs and events, women's and other special programs, and Project Healing Waters. SPFF's educational opportunities for members and non-members have been rapidly expanding in recent years and particularly 2020, notwithstanding the Covid pandemic. Educational outings not previously mentioned include:

Surf Fishing. During the winter SPFF seeks to provide monthly surf fishing outings to local beaches. Many involve educational experience for novices as well as others who just want to get out of the house and try a new activity.

Nymphing Clinic. This annual event (other than 2020) is held in the fall in Bishop, CA, and is designed for those wanting to improve their nymph fishing skills and those wanting to learn Euro Nymphing. Experienced club members take out small groups and fish various nearby areas.

CONCLUSION

Back in 1964, Lee Wulff wrote to Bob Wethern: "It occurs to me that a loose federation of fly fishing groups could be of considerable value." Out of this idea shared by Lee and others emerged FFI. Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers and its members share this idea today, strongly supporting the FFI and providing significant leadership and person-power to the Southwest Council. At the same time, the club has exemplified FFI's Mission Pillars of Conservation, Education, Community. When the pandemic grounded so many normal activities for all clubs, Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers rose to the occasion and not only maintained but expanded its overall activities.

For the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers, fly fishing is a passion, a passion to be shared with others and its environs protected.