



CONTENTS

Live General Meeting:	
What Do Trout Eat? with Ernie Gulley	1
President's Message	4
Membership.....	4
Fly Tying	5
Outings Report	5
Directors & Committee Chairs..	5
SPFF Hot Creek Ranch	
Outing.....	6
SPFF Beginning Fly Tying	
Class.....	7
SPFF Winter Auction: Items	
Wanted	8
Casting Corner	9
SPFF Event Calendar	9
Southern California Steel-	
head Need Your Help!	10
Fishing Report: East Fork of	
Carson River.....	11
SWC-FFI FlyBuy: Jan. 22.....	12
SWC-FFI 1st Annual Catch	
and Release Fishing	
Competition: February 26 ...	13
Fishing Report: New Year's	
Eve Surf Fishing.....	14
Support Our Sponsors.....	15

LIVE GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

WHAT DO TROUT EAT? with Ernie Gulley

by Marshall Bissett

One of the most important questions that anglers ask themselves and try to answer every time he or she ventures the water is, "What are the trout eating this very minute?" This can be a tough question because trout often have many different food items from which to choose. In fertile waters, the choices are almost limitless. Chironomids, scuds, fry, leeches, damsels, snails and mayflies are just a few of the tasty morsels trout love to eat. Each food item has different stages in its life cycle that it can be going through, e.g., egg, larva, pupa, adult or fry.

How and when do we first observe and then conduct quick and reliable research in order to choose the correct fly or flies that imitate what the trout are eating at that moment?

Our January presentation will focus on this important subject.

We will see how each of these individual trout food items can be broken down, and why trout choose them. We will become familiar with many of these life cycles, the time of year they are most prominent and which food items trout in our waters love to key on most of the time. We will learn the importance of



(Program continued on next page)

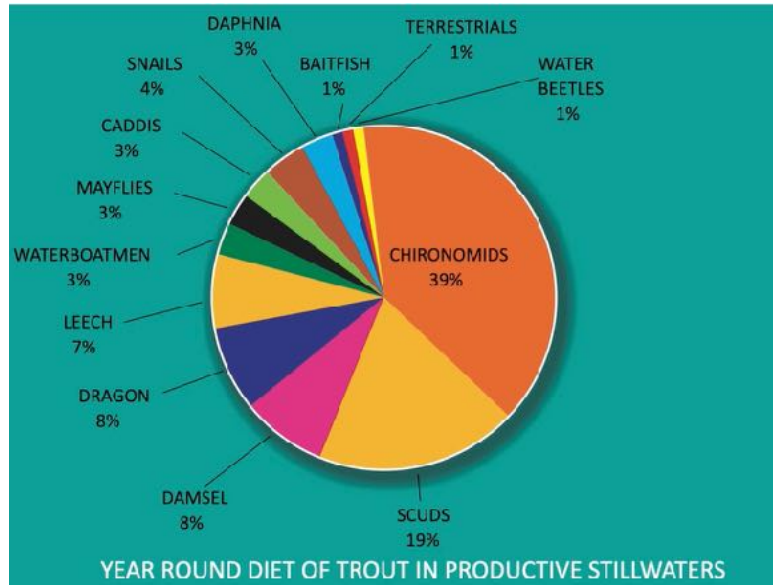
GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

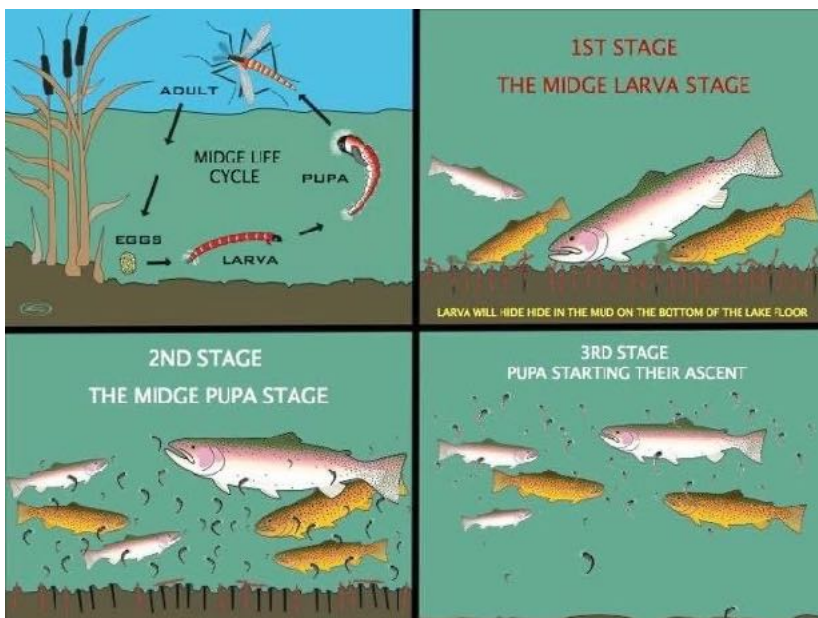
understanding how these food items actually move in the water. Most individual food items move in different ways through the water column and this is often a key when trying to mimic how to fish your fly and make it look just like the real food the trout are seeking. We will even see short videos of many of the food items that will show how they move.

Our guide for these very informative and valuable facets of our sport is one of our favorite presenters, SoCal's own Ernie Gulley. Ernie has been at our club a number of times and always is popular and appreciated for his knowledge and being able to present topics in a way that invariably help us become better fly fishers. Ernie will improve our fishing by showing what foods are in large abundance during which months of the season and what are the actual choices trout have and, most important, how and why they choose to eat what, when.

Ernie was actually born in southern California, and started fishing with his Dad as soon as he could walk. However, at age seven, Ernie and his family moved to New Orleans where he learned how to fish Lake Pontchartrain for speckled trout and other saltwater species. Later he moved back to SoCal and began fishing Lake Crowley, Bridgeport Reservoir and many lakes in Utah, Idaho and Nevada. (Ernie currently resides in Riverside with his wife Shannon and their two children, Logan, age 18 and Aidan, age 14.)



In 1997, Ernie's curiosity about fly fishing began and a true love affair was born. This love affair blossomed and he never looked back. Ernie was mentored by Bob Slamal, one of Ernie's legends in the fly fishing industry, and he also joined many local fly fishing clubs to learn as much as he could about fly fishing. In 2007, Ernie won the "Double Haul in the Fall" tournament at Lake Crowley, now his home waters for guiding; this is where he has won both individual and team division titles.



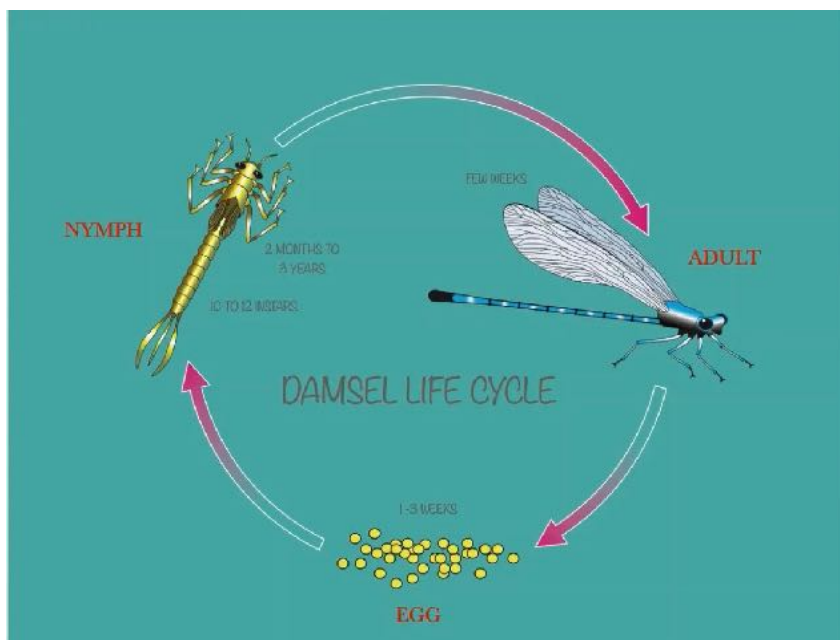
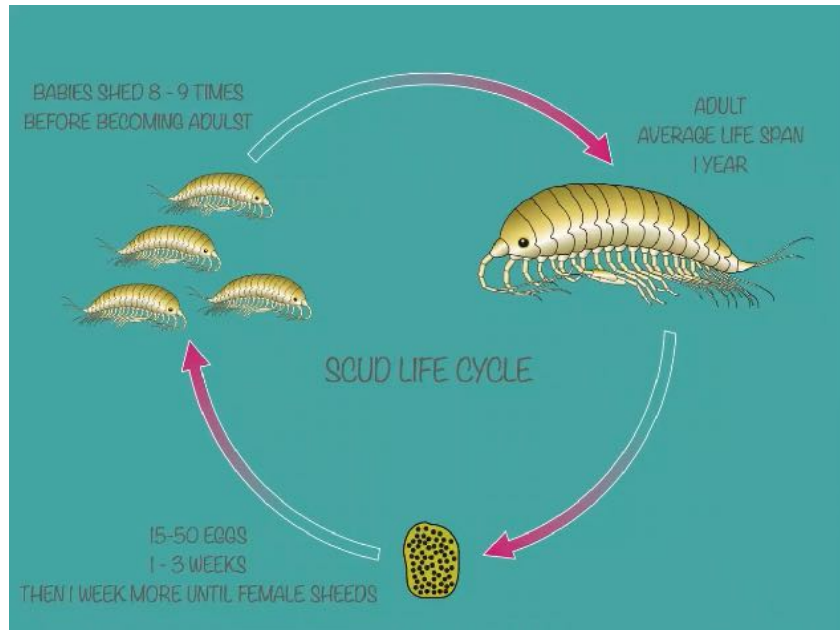
Ernie is currently a professional fly fishing guide in southern California and the eastern Sierra and is known as one of the Sierra's premier stillwater guides. Even when he is finished guiding for the day, you will find him back out on the water until sunset, always exploring, testing, observing, analyzing and putting in the extra time and effort to master his craft. His philosophy is simple: you can always learn something new every time you are on the water.

Ernie is a "Pro Ambassador" for the Hardy

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

Fly Fishing Company and the Cortland Line Company, among others. He takes great pride in sharing his knowledge of fly fishing and his great passion is teaching stillwater fly fishing tactics. You can learn more about Ernie and his guiding by going to:

www.erniegulley.com Facebook (Ernie Gulley) (Ernie Gulley Fly Fishing Guide Service) and Instagram (GulleyErnie)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

It's 2022, a new year, a new beginning...or it's supposed to be. Things were improving, opening up, returning to some semblance of normal, and then, Wham! Omicron.

I'm beginning to hate the Greek alphabet; perhaps when we get to Omega it will all be over. Once again, plans are in limbo. ITFF is postponed to the fall for lack of a venue, and who wants to sit in a classroom with a bunch of masked strangers? We did manage to have



our Fly Tiers's Christmas party, and it was great, and our December show and tell dinner before the door slammed shut again. I worry that more things will close for good, that the club will continue to shrink for lack of participation, that we will lose some of our

cherished members to Covid.

There are some hopeful signs: more people are getting vaccinated, some under protest; Omicron seems, so far, to be less deadly, at least for the vaccinated. So far, our pre-Super Bowl outing is still on. Fly tying continues, with the remote option available when necessary. We're having our family holidays, however truncated they may be. I've read that the 1918 pandemic lasted about 3 years before petering out, and they didn't have vaccines; let's hope that we can do at least as well.

I, for one, am looking forward to June. I have registered for the Hot Creek Ranch outing, and I understand that most of the cabins have been reserved already. This is my favorite club outing. I'm not completely sure why the Ranch calls to me so strongly, certainly not because I have it dialed in and catch a lot of fish. I think it's the timelessness of the place, the feeling when I get there that nothing has changed and all is as it should be. It's not, of course, but it seems that way and that's good enough.

Our Board members, re-elected for another year, are hard at work, planning for our next fund raiser, looking at our bylaws to see if they need to be updated, looking for ways to reinvigorate our club and find new conservation measures to support. Suggestions are welcomed, so feel free to contact me or any of us with your ideas.

So, heads firmly in the sand, we forge ahead and plan for the New Year in hopes that all will be well. I wish you all a healthy and happy year.

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](https://spff.org/New-Member-Signup).

SPFF always welcomes new members.

FLY TYING

by Michael Peratis

December 29, 2021: As of this writing we're still having our hybrid fly tying meetings in-person (with vaccinations and masks required) and on Zoom.

This is definitely not where I thought we'd be at the start of 2022. I had visions of COVID-19 being more of a bad memory, but instead it's still here, and stronger than ever.

Our Introduction to Fly Fishing classes have been postponed and our Beginning Fly Tying classes are threatened, all thanks to that damn virus.

Although we're planning to hold our beginner's classes as scheduled, this class, which usually fills up quickly, has only one registrant so far. The instructors are ready, the materials and tools for students are in place. We're waiting. Sorry to say, but if this class doesn't fill up, it too is going to be postponed. Hopefully, it won't come to that.

OUTINGS REPORT

by Jim Fleisher

The Pre-Super Bowl Outing (previously known as the Super Bowl Weekend Outing) has become one of the best loved outings of the year. It is a very free form outing. Just come up to Bishop and fish the Lower Owens River (or other places as you desire). We do have three regular scheduled activities this year. First: those who are interested can meet Friday morning at 8:30 AM behind BBQ Bill's to get directions, pair up, or just say "Hello!". Second: another morning meet on Saturday at 8:30 AM for those interested in pairing up. These morning meets are a great way to help our newer members get started on the Lower O.

Third: Saturday evening we plan to have a group dinner at Astorga's Mexican Restaurant. Payment is due at the time of registration.

While registration for the fishing activities is not required, it is appreciated. It helps us be prepared for the crowds. As always, if you have difficulty registering, call or email Jim Fleisher

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Programs	Marshall Bissett
Raffles	Steve Esgate
Social Media	Vacant
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Web Master	Ren Colantoni
Women's Programs	Vacant



HOT CREEK RANCH OUTING

SIERRA PACIFIC FLY FISHERS HOT CREEK RANCH OUTING JUNE 10-13, 2022

Registration is now available for the Hot Creek Ranch Outing. SPFF has reserved all cabins for this weekend. Arrival at 4:00 PM on Friday, fish Saturday, Sunday and check out Monday by 10:00 AM. You may stay and fish on Monday, but must be out of the cabin by 10:00 AM.

The cost this year is \$950.00 (inc. Tax) for two people in a cabin. One additional person can be in the cabin at a cost of \$120.00 (plus tax) per night.

Because of COVID 19 and the chance that short-term rentals may not be allowed, we have reduced the registration deposit to \$95.00 with the balance of \$855.00 due no later than April 15, 2022.

The Club can only hold cabins until March 31, 2022 after which they will be released to the public.

Please go to the SPFF website, LOG IN, click on the event calendar and go to June. Then click on the Hot Creek Ranch outing and click on the “register” button and follow the directions to choose your cabin and complete the registration. A deposit of \$95.00 (credit card or PayPal) is required to register.

Let's hope we can have another successful Hot Creek Ranch trip this year.

Jim Fleisher
Outings Chairperson

SPFF BEGINNING FLY TYING CLASS



SIERRA PACIFIC FLYFISHERS BEGINNING FLY TYING CLASS



2022 CLASSES ARE SCHEDULED
~ REGISTRATION IS OPEN ~

This seven week course will get you well on your way to a satisfying lifetime creating flies that will catch fish! You'll begin by learning basic techniques that you'll use to tie simple flies. Week by week you'll acquire more advanced skills and you'll apply them to create more complex flies. Each class will run from 6:45pm to 8:45pm. This is the class schedule showing the orientation date and then, what flies you'll learn to tie on each of the following class dates.

CLASS #1 1-12-22 ~ Orientation
CLASS #2 1-19-22 ~ San Juan Worm & Zebra Midge
CLASS #3 1-26-22 ~ Brassie
CLASS #4 2-2-22 ~ Woolly Bugger
CLASS #5 2-9-22 ~ Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear
CLASS #6 2-16-22 ~ Rubber Legged Beetle
CLASS #7 2-23-22 ~ Elk Hair Caddis

You'll be guided by an experienced fly tier who will be your coach throughout the course. We will loan you a vise, a lamp and all the tools required for the course. Your cost for the course is \$80 which is partial payment for your fly tying materials, course manual and accompanying DVD. SPFF pays the balance of the cost. Payment for the course is required at the time you register.

Unless you are absolutely sure about the vise, tools, and lamp you intend to purchase, we strongly encourage you to *WAIT* and use our loaners. The instructors will have a variety of vises & tools and you'll be able to get some valuable advice as to what you may want to buy.

In addition to this course, we meet most Wednesdays throughout the year to learn how to tie a fly that's taught by one of our group or a talented guest tier. Many of our "graduates" join us for these sessions and then even go on to become future instructors.

Because each class will require you to use skills that you learned at the previous classes, it's very important that you attend ALL the classes. And yes, there will be homework!

PLEASE NOTE: Our fly tying venue is a conference room at a medical facility. Proof of Covid-19 vaccination and wearing of masks will be required.

**CLICK THE EDUCATION TAB ON THE SPFF
WEBSITE TO REGISTER**

THIS CLASS IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - TELL A FRIEND

SPFF WINTER AUCTION

****ITEMS WANTED****

Cut off for donations is January 31, 2022

Dear Club Members,

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
- Discount Coupons for local restaurants
- Fly Fishing Related Books
- Fly Collections
- Collectables or Special Items, fishing or outdoor related

We are always open to suggestions.

If you would like to donate items, please contact me. I 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"](mailto:RWHFFMN@AOL.COM)
Cell: 714-293-1223



CASTING CORNER

by Jody Martin

SPFF Secretary and FFI SWC Casting Director

Answer to last month's question: Four drills that you can do, or teach others to do, to minimize the "breaking your wrist" problem on the backcast include (1) tuck the handle of the fly rod under the sleeve (if they are wearing a long-sleeved shirt) to keep the rod handle from rotating outward; (2) use a rubber band or Velcro strap to more tightly secure the rod handle to the wrist; (3) cast directly in front of your face, so that any undue flexing of the wrist would cause the rod to hit your hat or your head; and (4) have an instructor physically stop your arm on the backcast to make it easier to see how far back the rod is going. There are other things you can do too, of course!

This month's question: Because January can be a windy month, I thought I would offer you some wind-related True/False casting questions:

1. True or False: When casting with a wind that is coming from behind you, it is advantageous to have a slight downward trajectory to your forward cast, so that your backcast is slightly higher.

2. True or False: For safety reasons, you should never perform an "off-shoulder" cast when the wind is blowing onto your casting arm.

3. True or False: In the casting performance section of the CI exam, a candidate is allowed to change the direction in which he/she is casting to accommodate for the wind direction.

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

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

Fly Tying (in person & via Zoom)	5
Board Meeting	6
Beginning Fly Tying Class	12
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	15
SWC FFI Quarterly Meeting (on Zoom)	15
Beginning Fly Tying Class	19
FLY-BUY 2022 @ Long Beach Casting Club	22
Beginning Fly Tying Class	26

FEBRUARY

Beginning Fly Tying Class	2
Board Meeting	3
Pre-Superbowl Weekend Outing	4-6
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	5
Beginning Fly Tying Class	9
Beginning Fly Tying Class	16
Dinner Meeting & Program ("Matching the Hatch in Two Minutes" with Peter Sticher)	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	19
Angler Auction Catalog (COMING SOON)	22-28
Beginning Fly Tying Class	23
SWC FFI Trout Rodeo - Bishop, CA	26

MARCH

SPFF Annual Angler Auction and Fundraiser (on-line auction)	1-7
Board Meeting	3
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	5
Spring Outing	11-13
General Meeting & Program	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	19

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STEELHEAD NEED YOUR HELP!

by Debbie Sharpton, *Conservation Vice President, Southwest Council of FFI*

Action underway for the southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Your Support is Needed by February 2, 2022

On June 14, 2021 CalTrout petitioned California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) to list the southern California steelhead as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). This distinct population could be gone in 25-50 years. The counts are incredibly low, there are only a few fish in one stream of the Santa Monica Mountains. Southern steelhead exist only in the waters of Santa Maria River, San Luis Obispo County (inclusive) to the U.S.-Mexico Border

FGC accepted CDFW's evaluation that the petition was complete as a consent item on the December 15-16, 2021 agenda. You can get all the agenda item documents with this link:

FGC will determine if listing may be warranted at the February 16-17, 2022 meeting. Your voice needs to be heard at this meeting. Get info here: <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings/2022>

SWC Conservation has arranged for Russell Marlowe, California Trout's lead for the petition, to attend the SWCFFI Winter Quarterly Winter Quarterly meeting on January 15, 2022 to present the action and answer any questions.

Topic: Winter Quarterly Club Meeting

Time: Jan 15, 2022 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82923203807?pwd=ams0REl2MUdpRXNSZ2J5amRoL2ppQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 2320 3807

Passcode: 301466

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,82923203807#,,,,*301466# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,82923203807#,,,,*301466# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 829 2320 3807

Passcode: 301466

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82923203807?pwd=ams0REl2MUdpRXNSZ2J5amRoL2ppQT09>

FGC NEEDS TO HEAR OUR VOICES. Letters of Support are strongly encouraged. You can send any letters to me at conservation@swcffi.org and Russell Marlowe, California Trout at rmarlow@caltrout.org . Please send no later than Feb 2 in order to get into the FGC board packet.

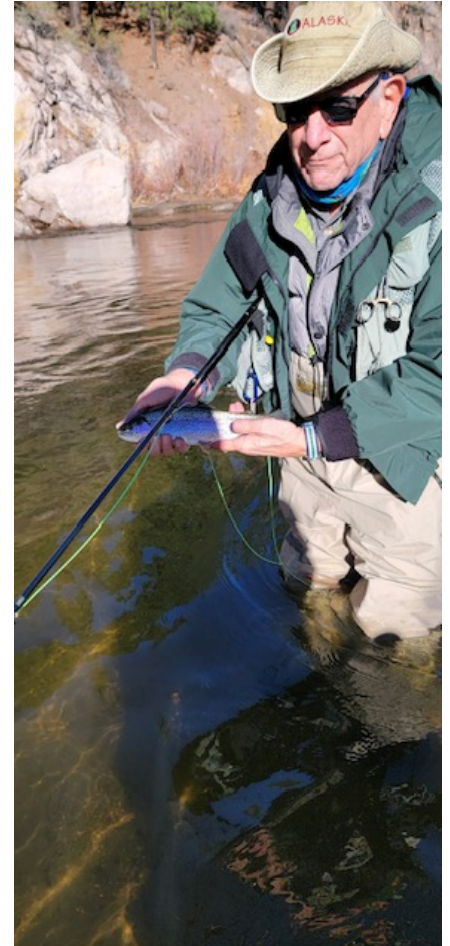
ATTEND THE MEETING, GET THE FACTS, PREPARE A LETTER AND SEND TO US.

Thank you.

FISHING REPORT: EAST FORK OF CARSON RIVER

by Aran Dokovna

The first week of November we travelled to Lake Tahoe. We were very concerned that the whole area would look to be a burnt crisp of past memories along with the smell of burnt wood and ash. We stayed at a condo in North Lake Tahoe just below Heavenly Valley chair lifts. On Wednesday my son, Daniel, took me out with a guide named Joel from the Lake Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters. He was an excellent guide and put us on numerous holes that had at least two fish per hole. At least it seemed that way, caught two at each and that was it. No dry fly fishing all nymphs. See attached photos.





FLYBUY



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Southwest Council

2022

FLY TYING
KIDS' FLY TYING
A GARAGE SALE
CASTING LESSONS
& GAMES
SILENT AUCTION
AND RAFFLES

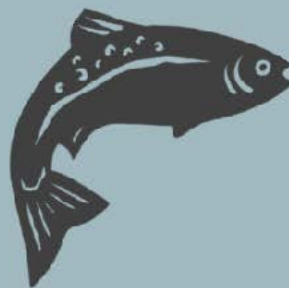
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022
9:00AM - 5:00PM
LONG BEACH CASTING CLUB

FEBRUARY 26. 2022
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA



CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING COMPETITION
FLY OR SPIN FOR THE WIN

40th anniversary



SOUTHWEST COUNCIL
OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

1981 - 2021

FISHING REPORT: NEW YEAR'S EVE SURF FISHING

by Glenn Short

Happy New Year! I've attached some photos from yesterday (New Year's Eve) morning that include David Hoffberg, Marshall Bissett, Michael Schweit, me, and a few friends from other clubs including Kevin Green and Carl Crawford. We did our annual surf outing to end the year by going to Santa Claus Beach in Carpinteria, followed by an outdoor brunch at the Garden Market.



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
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flyfishersinternational.org



tu.org