

# July- 2023

## Volume 17, Issue 4



SANTA CLARITA  
CASTING CLUB  
FLY FISHING



# Casting Times

## Calendar of Events

**W**atch for email announcements, and also visit the club website for activities that are scheduled.





# SCCC President Jamie Barber

## Membership Matters by Bill Creitz

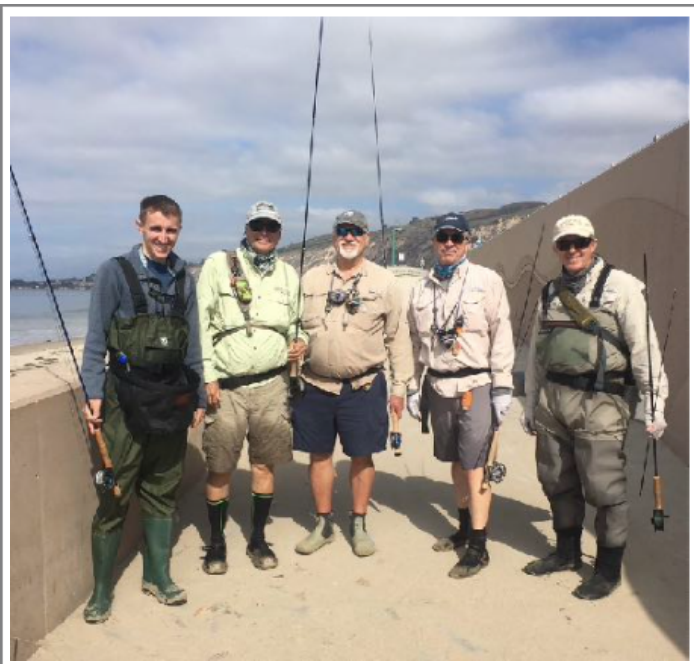
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**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council



# Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

I'm writing this on the eve of my trip to southern Utah with three or four members of the Santa Clarita Casting Club to fish for the elusive Tiger trout—and brookies, rainbows, and browns—in Panguitch and Pine Lakes.

Traveling to this exceptional trout habitat is one of the joys of my fly fishing experience, both because of the prospect of big and many trout and the time I get to spend with my fellow club members engaging in our favorite sport: fly fishing.

Besides the challenge of hunting and hooking feisty fish, there is the rich camaraderie and friendly competition for the most and biggest trout brought to the net (with Tiger trout, the "brought to the net" aspect is huge). You see, surrounded by pristine water, azure blue skies, and lush forests, we tend to put our concerns about health issues, family, the state of the country and economy, and our busy schedules on the back burner for a few days so as to concentrate on the task at hand: fishing. Fishing, then, becomes the primary focus and the great equalizer, so much so that we are actually happy—despite the competitive nature of some of us—for our fellow fishing buddies when they do well.

We routinely share our secret flies, our techniques for presenting and retrieving those flies, our tippet and leader selections, and our advice for playing and netting big fish. This all contributes to the *esprit de corps* of the overall trip and keeps us coming back each year.

The above reminds me of a thought provoking quote I recently read that says, "The greatest privilege in life is living beyond ourselves, getting over our inborn addiction to self in order to spend our lives making others better." That is valuable both in its astute observation and its inherent advice. Helping to make others better is a primary ingredient in a successful and fulfilling life. Everyone who volunteers somewhere doing something knows that truth. Another related quote I keep in my list of favorite quotes comes from my former pastor. It says this: "God bless anyone who will help anyone else." Simple, but so true.

That, then, leads me to another observation: that the desire to help people become better is at the core of the Santa Clarita Casting Club's mission. Witness the effectiveness of the June 3 "Women's Intro to Fly Fishing" seminar that provided instruction and an introduction to the awesome sport of fly fishing to 31 women of the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas (it even garnered a positive writeup in the local newspaper). All of this is in addition to the free monthly fly tying classes, bi-weekly casting clinics, monthly club meetings, Zoom Book Club meetings (resuming on August 15), our informative newsletter, the lending library, and the various fishing trips that are planned for the balance of the year.

Having said all that, I am very grateful for the friends that I have made through the Santa Clarita Casting Club and for the experiences I have enjoyed as a member. Be sure to look for the September issue of "Membership Matters" where I hope to give you a detailed account of our Utah trip along with photos of the group and their trout trophies (all photographed and then released to fight another day).

I'll see you at the next meeting.

## Panguitch Lake Outing

**Stanley Houlberg**

**C**hris Taylor and I met in Panguitch for a week of fishing the lakes in the local area on June 19th. We arrived on Monday afternoon, settled into a motel and prepared for fishing the next day at Panguitch Lake.

When we arrived at the lake, after breakfast around 8:30, we found the lake



mostly calm with a slight riffle on the surface. Float tubes were launched within minutes and we started trolling wooly buggers along the south shore where we parked our trucks. Within minutes we both had fish on. This lasted for an hour or two, then the fishing slowed down. Chris came in after a couple hours, but I stayed out for a total of six.

After Chris left to get something to eat I explored the south west end of the lake, past the trees along the west shoreline. The lake was very high and I was hoping to find the west shallows clear with lots of tall grass beginning to show growing out of the water like we found it the last time I was there two years ago. In those shallows was where I caught almost all my fish that year, all between 19 - 21 inches on #20 zebras and brassies.

This time the shallows were full of thick gooey weeds below the surface that stuck to my fins and prevented me from getting as close to the shoreline that I was hoping to do. I fished the area about 100 ft. from the shore for an hour and only caught one cutthroat on a #18 pheasant tail.



After that I kicked back around the trees and caught a tiger on a black bead head wooly bugger while heading back to where our trucks were parked.

This seemed to set the tone for the rest of our time on Panguitch. Almost all of the fish Chris and I caught were while trolling the south shoreline between Blue Springs and the next point to the East. We were

fishing from 100 - 200 ft. out from shore.

Wednesday was a repeat of Tuesday. We both caught from six to twelve trout, with my biggest being a 20" rainbow and Chris catching a 21" rainbow.

Thursday the lake was a little more breezy and we both had about the same results. Friday was completely blown out, so we took a road trip to the Tushar Mountains, east of the town of Beaver, and drove all the way from

Hwy 15 to Hwy 89. This was my first trip up there and I was amazed that the mountain wasn't all forest. It had lots of big beautiful meadows up on top that were full of beautiful wildflowers. Saturday morning we drove up to Panguitch Lake and were happy to find the lake completely calm. This was going to be a great day. We excitedly set up our gear and



were into the water within minutes. Just like the previous day started, while trolling along the south side of the lake where our trucks were parked, we started catching nice size rainbows. Chris was still using a black wooly bugger with a chartreuse bead head, but I had changed my fly half way through our first day to a purple bunny matuka with bead chain eyes with a red throat. That appeared to be more productive for me over the bead head black wooly bugger.

Chris caught a few nice rainbows and had another huge rainbow get free almost right at the tube. I ended up with around a dozen, mostly rainbows with two cutthroat. All of the fish we caught were along the southern shore of the lake 100 - 200 ft. out. The area in front of the trees and in the shallows on the West end of the lake where we both had such luck the trip before, surprisingly didn't pan out the way we expected. We saw a couple people catch a few fish there over the four days we fished Panguitch, but most of the fish we saw caught were along the South shoreline.



All weekend long there was a hot air

balloon festival in the town of Panguitch. I counted at least 32 hot air balloons being launched from the meadow just east of town and landing just a couple miles to the North. Saturday afternoon the festival had live music, food and people watching entertainment to enjoy. At least a dozen hot air balloons were staged right down the middle of the street and at 9:00 pm they started inflating them. By the time they were all inflated it was dark and the balloonists put on an incredible show of sequentially blasting flames into the balloons making them light up like lightbulbs up and down Main Street. It was a very nice way to end another fun trip to one of our favorite lakes to fly fish in South Central Utah, Panguitch Lake.



**John Parmenter**

**T**he Riptide Rendezvous has an interesting history. Its roots come from the first gathering in 2004 when Gary Bulla, one of the California pioneers in fly fishing the surf, teamed with other fly fishermen to host the first "Surf Zone Rendezvous" at Rincon Beach Park. That event sparked further interest in surf fishing and was a gateway to similar gatherings.

From 2009-2016, Al Quattrocchi, another surf-fishing guru and master of corbina on the fly, hosted a gathering which was called the One Surf Fly. This two-hour fly fishing only event drew dozens of surf fishers to Los Angeles and Ventura County beaches to compete. The rules were simple: you donated one fly to a grab bag of flies and then selected one fly at random to be used for the two hours of fishing. If you lost the fly, oh well... the contest was over for you (I know this from first-hand experience).

Following the One Surf Fly event was lunch, a raffle, and the awarding of prizes for the first fish caught, the largest fish caught, and the most fish



caught. Having participated in the event over a number of years, I can tell you it was an outing I looked forward to each year. It was a great opportunity to meet like-minded surf fishers to exchange ideas, flies, and to have a few laughs.

From 2017-2019 more changes took place to the surf fishing event culminating with the teaming up of the Southwest Council and Coastal Conservation Association of California to make the event a fly fishing and regular tackle event. Then in 2020, unfortunately, the surf fishing contest

had to be cancelled because of restrictions on gathering due to Covid.

But after a layoff of three years the Riptide Rendezvous returned. The rules had changed in several ways since my last entry in the contest. This year each fly fisher was allowed to use

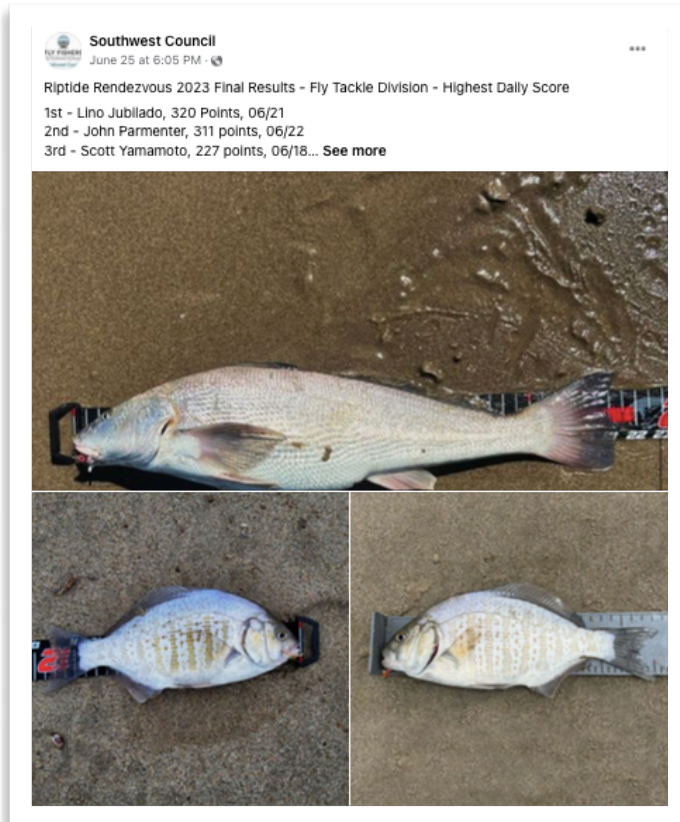
his/her own flies, and if the fly was lost...no big deal, you were allowed to tie on another. Another major rule change was that there were no longer any referees involved in the contest to record the fish caught. This year we all abided by an honor system. All fish caught (no foul hooked fish allowed) had to be measured and

photographed and later entered online through an AP called, **iAngler Tournament**. In addition, and probably the biggest change yet, was the time limit for fishing which was changed from two hours to several days from May 27, 2023, through June 23, 2023, with the location for fishing being, "...anywhere from the northern border



of Santa Barbara County to the Mexican border.” The new rules really opened up the tournament to more anglers, I believe. <https://shorturl.at/fzC45>

I fished on four different days in the month of June with two outings



that were pretty special. For me it was perch, perch, and more perch. On one outing I fished at La Conchita and recorded 32 perch, and on my last outing of the tournament I fished both at La Conchita and Rincon Beach and recorded 38 perch. With all the fish I released I landed only one corbina, but it was foul hooked so it couldn't be counted.

It's worth noting that on the day I caught 32 perch, I used the same fly the entire time. Pretty crazy I thought. At the end of the day the fly held up so well that I began the next outing with the same fly! That's a first for me.

The fly is one I designed which I named the Mrs. Bates—for two reasons. First I named it for Bates Road which is the exit for Rincon Beach Park, a beach I like to fish, and secondly it was named after a popular character on Downton Abbey, the PBS series that my wife and I were watching at the time when I came up with the fly. <https://flypatterns.org/mrs-bates/>.

At the end of the tournament the results were posted and prizes awarded at the Long Beach Casting Club. I did well overall, taking second place in one category. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the awards gathering because of family commitments. Still I'm happy that I got involved this year and hope that other Club members join the fun next time around. The tournament got me into the surf and connected me with some excellent fishing.

# Connie Bullock

Membership Chair  
SWC Club Representative

## Southwest Council Report

The SWC had their Summer Quarterly Club Meeting on Saturday, July 15, and a lot of information was shared. The SWC is working on an advertising program for the clubs with Western Outdoor News (WON). This would provide our logo to be displayed in the newspaper. I'm not sure of the allotted time frame, but I'll find out. As more information is provided, I will keep you updated.

The presenter for the meeting was Russel Marlow – Sr. Project Manager for CalTrout. Russell discussed the removal of the Matilija Dam and the presentation was called "**Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.**" It's based on:

- Science
- Restoration
- Legal and Policies
- Community Engagement
- Threat of extinction

After 80 years, this dam is no longer functional as it is just collecting sediment and provides no flood control.

The removal will reconnect approximately 30 miles of habitat for the Southern California steelhead and re-establish natural sediment transport and flow for the Ventura River, beaches and nearshore.



The overall project planning has been going on for some time as it's a costly project (\$280+ million) with active fundraisers in place

Russell also discussed the removal of the Ridge Dam and 780K cubic yards of sediment behind the dam. This project was recently completed 6 months ahead of time.

There was a lot of information provide and can be obtained by going to:

- [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) MCERP (Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project)
- [www.restoremalibucreek.org](http://www.restoremalibucreek.org)

We discussed upcoming SWC events:

- 12/9/23 Teach the Teacher class at Pasadena Casting Club
- 1/25 thru 1/28 Bart Hall show
- 2/10 Trout Rodeo in Bishop

Make sure you mark your calendars! Thank you.

## Officers

**President:** Jamie Barber  
**1st Vice President:** John Malerba  
**Treasurer:** Jill Field-Duerr  
**Correspondence:** Bill Creitz  
**Membership:** Connie Bullock  
**Senior Director:** Jon Simle  
**Financial:** Aran Dokovna  
**Senior Consultant:** Ray Bianco

## Club Committees

**Casting Clinic:** Paul Riegert & Ray Bianco  
**Communications:** Cece Rubin  
**Conservation:** Open  
**Social Media:** Cece Rubin  
**Fly Tying:** Rotating Members  
**Fund Raising:** Open  
**Rod Building:** Open  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Parmenter  
**Raffles/Merchandise:** Open  
**Trip Organizer:** Open  
**Club Roster:** Connie Bullock  
**SWCFFF Rep:** Connie Bullock  
**Website Admin.:** Cece Rubin

# Our Value Promise

To bring together people of all ages who share a passion to develop their knowledge and skills in the wonderful sport of fly fishing, through education, conservation, and fishing events, while serving as a proud steward of our community, our local waters and wildlife areas.