

# November - 2021

## Volume 15, Issue 5



# Casting Times

## Calendar of Events

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





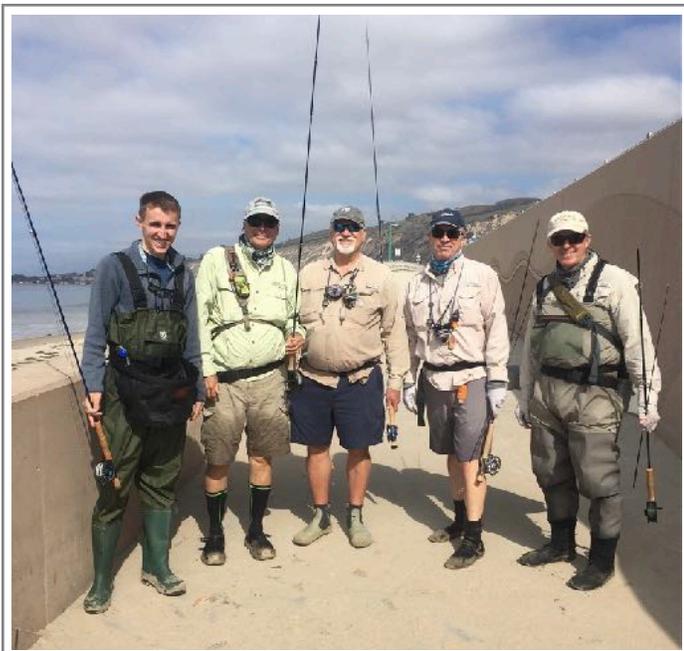
# CONTENT

The Riffle  
by Connie Bullock

.01

Membership Matters  
by Bill Creitz

.02



Gone Fishing  
Members

The bite must be off!  
There are no reports  
this issue.

.03



Club News  
by Connie Bullock

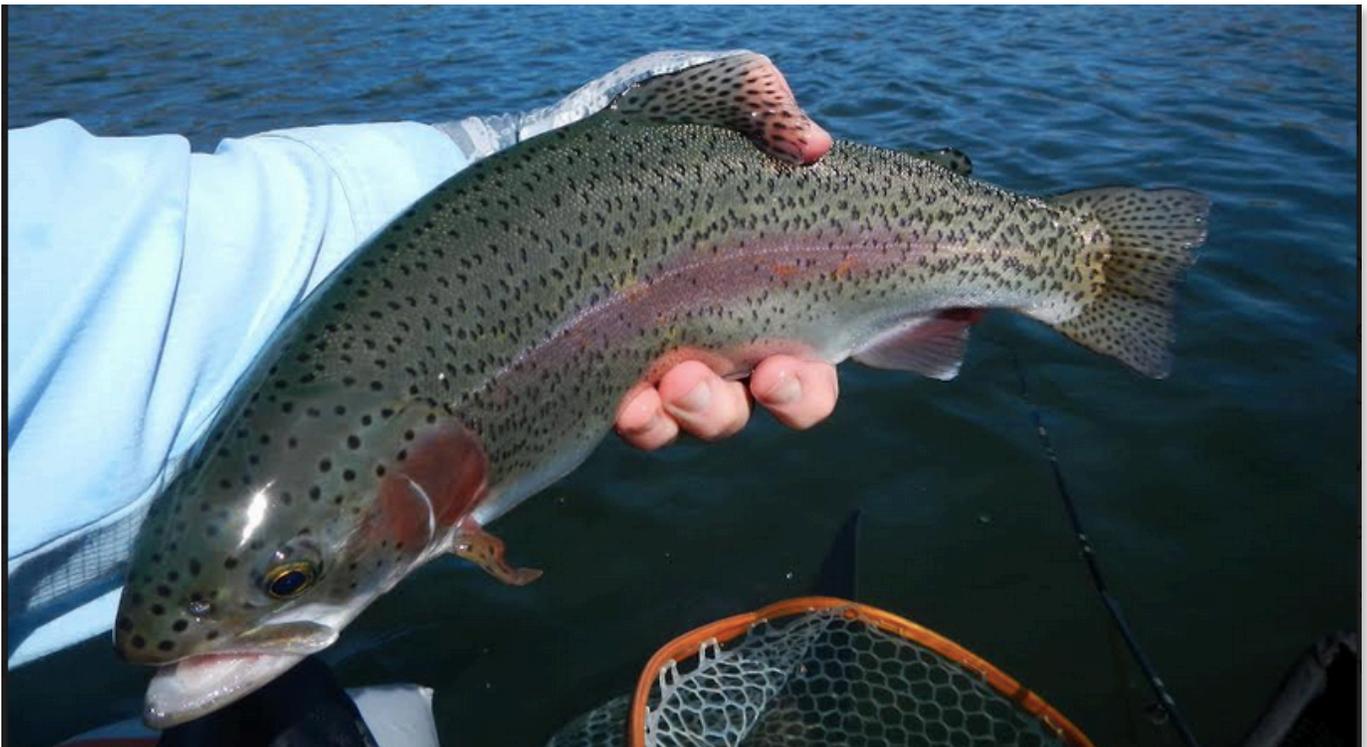
.04

SWCFFI News  
by Connie Bullock

.05



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council



# The Riffle

by Connie Bullock

## Farewell to Dick and Paulette Harris

The Harris' are off on another adventure. They are heading to Flower Mound, Texas to be with their son, daughter-in-law, and grandson, Jake. Their family was transferred, so off they are going to Texas—after all, they followed them from Massachusetts to California many years ago, and we were fortunate enough to have Dick in a leadership role for many years.

A few years ago, Membership Matters guru, Bill Creitz, wrote about Dick and his journey, and I would like to paraphrase a portion of the write-up as it so well captures the nature of the man.



“When I talk about Dick Harris as the club’s outgoing President, I can be referring to either (1) the ‘outgoing President,’ as in past President, or (2) the ‘outgoing’ President, as in the extrovert, people-loving, President. Either way, I would

be correct.” *Not only was he President from 2010-2015, he stepped into the position once again in 2019-2021 to help co-chair the position.*

“Dick has been the extrovert, enthusiastic face of the Santa Clarita Casting Club for over 15 years. As only the second President of our club, Dick stepped into the role in 2010 and helped take the club to its present membership level and prominence in the Santa Clarita Valley community.”

“When Dick was asked about his obvious affinity for people and his impressive people skills, he stated very simply that, ‘I like interacting with folks in a way that brings a smile or sends a message that I am interested in them, which I am. In fact, as we age, I think we want to spend more time with people we like, whether it’s family or friends. Hooking up with a group like the Santa Clarita Casting Club has been wonderful. I really enjoy the passion that the members exhibit, as well as the wealth of information—not to mention, stories—that come from the club’s members.’”

“Asked if that enthusiasm and those social skills come into play when fishing, Dick was quick to respond that, indeed, they do. ‘I tend to be very expressive on the water—often talking to the fish that missed my well-presented bug.’ So, even the fish experience Dick’s enthusiasm, charm, and sense of humor.”

I could go on-and-on about the qualities of this man, but most of you already know him. He will be greatly missed, but we wish the family good health, happiness, and, above all, success in learning how to fish the warm waters of Texas. We will miss your leadership and mostly your sense of humor, Dick. Goodbye, my friend.

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**"One thing becomes clearer as one gets older and one's fishing experience increases, and that is the paramount importance of one's fishing companions."**

**-John Ashley-Cooper**

“Thank you, Dick, for your many years of being our club’s gold standard for friendliness, consideration, selflessness, commitment, kindness, approachability, and generosity—all wrapped up in that infectious New England sense of humor.”

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## Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

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**S**ocialization, meeting with people face-to-face, is critical to our mental—and physical—wellbeing.

My pastor recently related an interesting story whereby he was talking to another pastor in a distant part of the country about the effects of the pandemic on his church’s attendance. When asked the question about what percentage of his congregation had returned to the in-person services, the pastor said, “About 30 percent.” My pastor then asked, “What about the remaining 70 percent?” “They’re gone,” he responded. “They’ve either moved, determined that gathering in-person is no longer a priority, or they’re afraid of being around other people.”

What some portion of that 70 percent don’t realize (or maybe they’ve just forgotten) is that, for normal socialization and psychological health, they need to belong to, identify with, and participate in a social group—be it a club, a church, a synagogue, a breakfast group, or a fly tying gathering. People need people. “We need each other...because [it gives us] the ability to do together what we could never do alone,” opines Dr. David Hegg.

That brings me to the subject of the Santa Clarita Casting Club.

During most of the pandemic-related shutdown, our club has been holding its monthly meetings on Zoom. The book club meets bi-weekly on Zoom. Fly tying, thanks to some help from Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers’ Michael Peratis, has been (until recently) meeting on Zoom.

Now, don’t think I under-appreciate social media and technology platforms that enhance, or replace, meeting face-to-face, but they are simply no substitute for in-person meetings. This longing for more in-person gatherings was reinforced recently when I attended our club’s fly tying session at Jamie Barber’s house. After two hours spent talking about; studying; sharing, debating, and explaining tying techniques; and then comparing and admiring the finished products, several of us at the fly tying vices (well, actually, I was only observing and didn’t have a vise of my own) commented about how much we appreciated the opportunity to meet in person. Interpersonal dynamics are simply better in person. As I mentioned earlier, people need people: in-person people.

Having said that, I do believe that the relationships we have,

and enjoy, don't just disappear because we're forced to pivot to a social media platform. Ask anyone on the Zoom book club calls if they enjoy and look forward to reading and discussing the latest fly fishing book, and they will likely answer in the affirmative. As an example, we just concluded three sessions discussing John Parmenter's book *Dana Fork Revisited*, where we got to (1) ask questions of the author (it's rare that we have in our midst the actual author of a book we're reading), (2) comment on the manner in which John evoked childhood memories in each of us from our earliest years of fishing, and (3) rib the author about something he stated or the way in which he stated it. To put it briefly, we have fun on our Zoom book club calls. In a perfect world, however, I would like to talk fishing and books with this group, in-person, over a meal or sitting around a table at a clubhouse. Either way, knowing and getting to interact with our club members is a privilege, a blessing (don't get me started on discussing the article I just read entitled "The 31 Benefits of Gratitude You Didn't Know About: How Gratitude Can Change Your Life"), and something that enriches my life. It likely does the same for you.

So, while I'm not out fishing much these days, I do get to socialize with many of the club members. And every time I do, it reinforces the lesson about how valuable getting together with friends is. There is a great Bible verse (Proverbs 27:17) that says, "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." That short verse speaks volumes about the inherent value of friendships. And, while our club's focus is mainly on fly fishing, ultimately, it's about

the people and the friendships and the shared experiences and the common interests that we have that make us better, happier, healthier, and more fulfilled people. As such, I'll leave you with the following two quotes about the importance of people in our lives:

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." African Proverb

"Sooner or later, we learn that the best things in life aren't things. The best things in life are people..." Dr. David Hegg

Do you agree with those sentiments? I hope you do, and I hope that you, your family, and your friends have a terrific Thanksgiving together (the operative term here is "together").

Oh while on the subject of Thanksgiving and, by implication, thankfulness, there is no better example of someone who illustrates my point about placing great value on people than our soon-departing Dick Harris. Let me give a final Santa Clarita Casting Club shout-out to Dick, a friend (mentor to many) for whom I am thankful and who is the personification of what Dr. Hegg said in the above quote.

Thank you, Dick, for your many years of being our club's gold standard for friendliness, consideration, selflessness, commitment, kindness, approachability, and generosity—all wrapped up in that infectious New England sense of humor. Of all people, Dick, you understand that the best things in life are people. We will miss you greatly.

I'll see you all at the next meeting.

# Fly Fishing Explorer Post 395 & A Tribute to Dick Harris

Jon Simle

I would like to thank SCCC for their sponsorship for Fly Fishing Explorer Post 395. We are just getting started building this new Explorer program. Fly Fishing Post 395 is the first of its kind in the country. The Post has started recruiting for new members. We are looking for Explorers ages 14 to 20 years of age. This is a coed program. If you know anyone that would like to belong to this new Post, please call the SCCC phone number at 661-794-7819 and leave a message of interest. Thanks again for your support, Jon Simle



Dear Members,

It has been a wonderful privilege and pleasure to have been a friend of Dick Harris. I will miss him. He has been the soul of our club ever since I've been a member.



I first met Dick at the Central Park Arbor Day event over ten years ago. I was walking in the park that day with my sister in law when she spotted the SCCC booth and said, "Look, Jon, there are a bunch of guys wearing those ugly shirts you wear." She was referring to fly fishing shirts. I walked over to the booth and there was Dick, in his typical fashion out in front talking to anyone that was within reach, telling them to join the club. Within 30 seconds I was signing up to be a new SCCC member.

The club has been a place of friendship, great camaraderie and just a place for having fun and learning the joys of fly fishing. The club is extremely fortunate to have Connie and Dick at the helm for all these years. I will miss you my dear friend. Enjoy Texas, catch fish, and enjoy your new club. I know that they will enjoy you as much as we have.

Jon Simle

**ED. Note: Thanks, Jon, for expressing so well the sentiments we all share.**

# **Connie Bullock**

**Membership Chair/SWC  
Club Representative**

Southwest Council Upcoming/Pending events

## **Fly Buy – January 22, 2022**



### **What IS Fly Buy?**

Part fishing tackle garage sale, part fly-fishing carnival and all fun.

**When:** January 22, 2022

**Time:** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Where:** Long Beach Casting Club - 5201 E 7th St, Long Beach, CA 90804

Events:

- Fly Tying with some of the best know tiers
- Kids' Fly Tying
- A garage Sale
- Casting Lessons & Games
- Silent Auction and Raffles
- **EVENT CONTACT:** Michael Schweit
- Phone: (818) 601-9702 | [specialprojects@swcffi.org](mailto:specialprojects@swcffi.org) or visit [www.swcffi.org/FlyBuy](http://www.swcffi.org/FlyBuy)

# Trout Rodeo – February 26, 2022

## Trout Rodeo – Registration opens December 8, 2020

As we write this, California is under a Stay-at-Home order and rightfully so. The Council would never do anything to jeopardize lives and if the Rodeo was in two weeks, it would be cancelled. But being the hopeful people we are, preparation is still going forward with the hopes that Californians, and especially anglers, heed this order to reduce the caseloads. The fishing part of the tournament should be fine if the order is lifted but the rest of the event (dinner, awards ceremony) will remain in flux until right before the event. If the Stay-At Home is still in effect February 10th, we will postpone the Tournament until 2022.

<http://ianglertournament.com/troutrodeo>

You must create an account or log into an existing account with iAngler. After that, go to Trout Rodeo and register for the event.

Welcome to the first ever Trout Rodeo, held in Bishop, California on February 26, 2021! This catch and release tournament is a challenge to ALL anglers to see who comes out on top. The event is open to fly and conventional anglers and we have made it easy to be a part of it.

iAngler will “hold” the record of your catch until your phone can get Internet coverage and at that point, will download your catches to the event administrator for scoring. All catches MUST be caught during the designated time of the tournament (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and within the eligible waters as listed below. Your catch is automatically time and location stamped.

### Hours of event

**8 a.m.** – Tri-County Fairgrounds, Bishop for any questions or last minute registrations. Before the event, you will need to download and install iAngler. Once you are signed in to the event, you are responsible for taking photographs.

**9 a.m.** – 3 p.m. — head out and fish your favorite area! Feel free to move around but be sure not to crowd other anglers.

**6 p.m.** – **9 p.m.** – At this point, we are planning on dinner, raffles and awards at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. This is all subject to Covid restrictions and may be modified. Winners will be announced that night in some shape or form!

**Eligible Waters** – Pleasant Valley Reservoir, from the power plant outlet to the dam. You may fish from shore or use a floatation device. The Owens River may be fished from the Pleasant Valley Campground all the way south to Line Street Bridge (Polita Road). Please read and follow all Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations for any area you fish.

**Cost** – 25.00 per person. There is an additional fee (20.00) if you want to compete in the team category and there will be separate prizes for each team member. There will be



separate categories for fly caught and lure caught along with separate prizes. If you are a licensed guide or lodge/retail owner, you may participate in a separate category for no cost. If you are affiliated with Casting For Recovery and/or Project Healing Waters, there is no charge for you to participate as an individual or as a team.

Details for the Awards Dinner and any after event gatherings will be forthcoming closer to the event. We are working closely with Inyo Department of Health as to what constitutes safety and are following their guidelines.

**Lodging** – there are campgrounds at Pleasant Valley Reservoir and many hotels/motels in Bishop. We are working on event pricing.

**Covid 19** – Participants agree to wear a facial covering (over mouth and nose) when indoors or when outdoors and within 6 feet of persons from another household. While in Inyo County, they take face covering seriously when indoors or when outdoors without physical distancing. Their Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance allow people to be ticketed and fined for violations of the local face covering order.



## Officers

**President:** Connie Bullock

**1st Vice President:** Jamie Barber

**2nd 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:** Connie Bullock

**Conservation:** Open

**Social Media:** John Parmenter

**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.:** Jason Pai

# 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.