

September- 2022

Volume 16, Issue 5



SANTA CLARITA
CASTING CLUB
FLY FISHING



Casting Times

Calendar of Events

Watch for email announcements, and also visit the club website for activities that are scheduled.

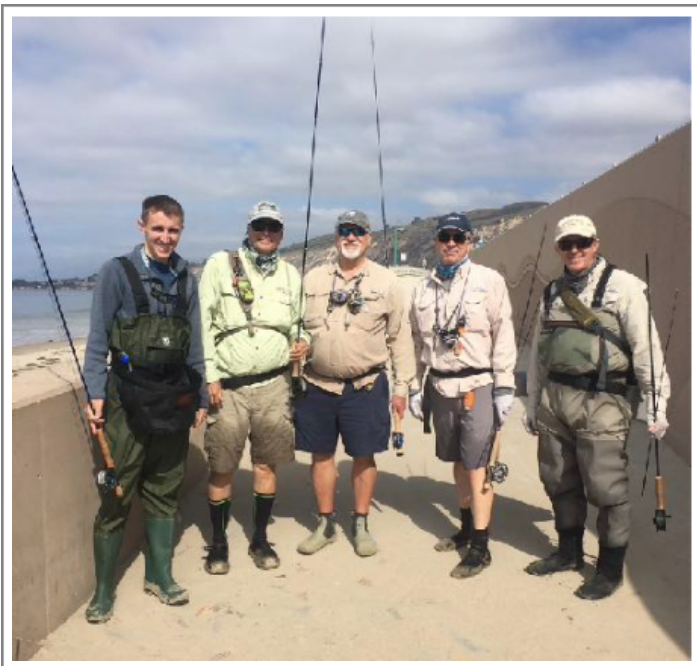




President Jamie Barber The Riffle

Membership Matters by Bill Creitz

.01



Gone Fishin' Contributing Club Members

.02



Club News
by Connie Bullock

.03

SWCFFI News
by Connie Bullock

.04



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Southwest Council



The Riffle

by Jamie Barber

Here we are at the beginning of October and the start of fall. We still have summer heat, but many of us are looking forward to the cold of winter. Now that the pandemic has been down graded to the level of the flu, we are meeting in person again. We have been meeting at my house for the general membership meetings, Board meetings and for monthly fly tying sessions. I love having everyone here and being able to barbecue for the club, but with winter coming it's time to find someplace that will hold us all and provide some protection from the weather, someplace better than my backyard. We are looking at Keller Williams, the Senior Center and other venues. I am taking suggestions and would love to hear from members if you have any suggestions. Remember cost is still a consideration. I can't stress enough how much it means to find a home. We will be able to return to lectures, classes, raffles and the swapping of stories like we use to do.

The club continues to grow with new members and we are strong financially. Our casting clinics and fly tying nights are well attended. All are good signs for the health of the club.

I personally am excited to be able to return to fly fishing! I have fully recovered from my hip replacement surgery, and I'm heading to Colorado to try my hip on some streams in the Rockies. Also, this fall we are planning to get up to the Sierras before it gets too cold. I expect to see many of you up there with me! We are still fishing in the surf on various Fridays and I expect to see more of you out there with me when you can. I'm also looking forward to fishing with Joaquin Malerba after his heart surgery. He is back!!!

We have a team headed for the Kern River tournament and let's hope they can catch an abundance of trout and bring back a trophy for the club. We will be participating in more tournaments in the coming year. Let's not forget the Trout Rodeo in Bishop at the beginning of next year. I will be there!!!

Let's find a home and return to fishing together!

Tight Lines

Jamie

Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

“ Friends just make fishing more fun. If you don’t believe me, take a look at the photos on the Santa Clarita Casting Club’s web page under ‘Outings and Events.’ ”

Thanksgiving is almost here. Can you believe that that terrific holiday, known in only two countries—the United States and Canada (Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October)—is merely a page-turn away on your fall calendar?

Thanksgiving reminds me of not only being thankful but of being grateful. On the surface, those two words are synonymous; they are, however, very different. Being thankful is a feeling, being grateful is an action. According to licensed therapist Susan Rhoads, “Gratitude requires us to stay alert to the role of others in our lives. This is different from the fleeting nature of the act of a mere “thank you” or feeling thankful one day of the year. Through gratitude, we get to make sense of our lives and learn to credit friends and loved ones with the appreciation they deserve.”

So what does gratitude have to do with fly fishing? Directly: not so much; indirectly, a lot. You see, friends just make fishing more fun. If you don’t believe me, take a look at the photos on the Santa Clarita Casting Club’s web page under “Outings and Events.” Do you detect a common thread in all of the members (beside they’re holding fly rods)? All of the photos are of members with smiles broader than the Owens River. Is it because of the fish they caught? No. It’s because of who they are with. Friends make for good times, good pictures, and a sense of gratefulness.

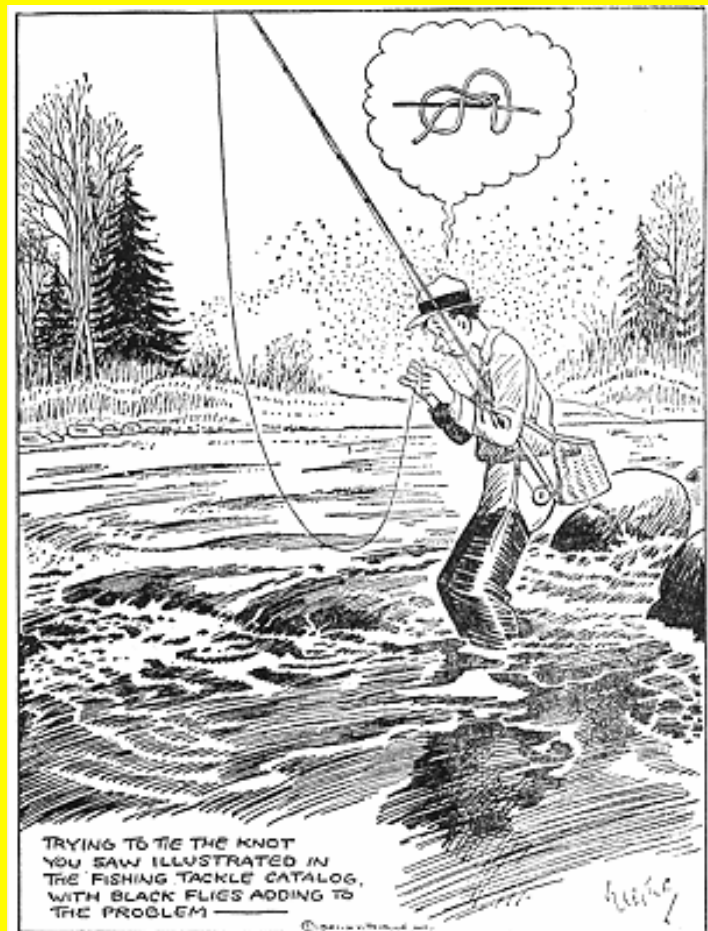
A quick glance at our club’s calendar on that same web page illustrates how much we have available for our members and how each activity leverages off of and deepens the friendships that are made and maintained in the Santa Clarita Casting Club. All of which I am very grateful for.

The Zoom book reading group, free casting clinics, club outings (both surf and freshwater), fly tying, monthly meetings, rod building classes, women’s events, informal breakfasts, and the Post 395 Explorer Scouts program are a few of the ways that we stay connected—and maintain our high humor quotient.

According to *The Signal* contributing writer, Paul Butler, “Sadly, the Eternally Grateful are a very small part of the working population...In a Gallup poll of 2022, the word ‘grateful’ was an adjective selected by less than eight percent of the surveyed population...” Thankfully, our club membership bucks the national trend by a huge margin. We are both friendly and grateful.

So, the next time you see, fish with, talk to, or interact with a member of our club, take a moment to reflect on the value that they bring to your life and fishing experience and resolve to always be one of the eight percent who acknowledge the importance of and practice gratitude. Let’s keep Thanksgiving alive all year round. From numerous comments I’ve heard over the years, you could easily justify calling us “The Friendly Club.”

I’ll see you at the next meeting—or maybe on the Upper Owens.



Gone Fishin'

Jon Simle

Dear Members,

I wanted to write to you about my last trip to La Conchita Beach with Barry Weber and Jonathan Summer. It was just about perfect conditions that Friday morning September 2. We arrived on the beach and started fishing a receding tide. The first hour was slow, but by the second hour things started happening. First some surf perch appeared and the bite was on. In the last hour magic really started to happen. Barry caught a nice corbina, Jonathan with some perch, and I hooked a nice halibut.

I just want to say that the real joy that day was the privilege I had to fish with some really special guys. It's been about ten years that I have been surf fishing with Barry. I can't tell you how much I enjoy his company. If you have never fished with him you are missing out. To have his friendship cannot be measured.

A last few words about Jonathan. His enthusiasm for fly fishing is a joy to be around. I'm looking forward to our next trip, and I know that we will have many, many more trips ahead. By the way, the halibut pictured on page 3, was caught on the fly.



September 2022, Kings Canyon Trip

Jonathan Summer

Hoping that this trip would finally be the time where I would see firsthand the fish-catching benefits of Euro Nymphing, I drove past Boyden Cave into Kings Canyon. The steep canyon walls enclosed the water and road for a stretch of 5 miles until it opened up into the main Kings Canyon Valley. In the canyon stretch the many boulders and plunge pools kept the low water still looking pretty trouty.



After 30 minutes of fishing just upstream of Boyden, I finally hooked into a small brownie. The fight went down like the other brown trout I have caught: a dive to deep water followed by a run downstream. With a fish finally in the net I could relax. I had accomplished my goal to "just get one," and any more would be icing on the cake. But on second thought the icing is the best part.

A couple pulled up along the road just upstream of the pool I was fishing. A few boulders had split the main current and caused a pool to form between two runs. Targeting the seams at the edge of the pool, I felt a subtle tug and set the hook on a solid 9" rainbow on a Walt's Worm Pattern I had tied. Scooping him into the net I looked up to see the couple making eye contact with me. I couldn't help but give them a smile while I quickly rose up the fish to say, "I got him". Following that, I caught two other 'bows from the same pool, but then my good luck charms got back into their car and drove away. Next cast and my fly was stuck to a rock. That about ended day 1, and after meeting up with a few

friends we began preparing for the next day by looking at the map and rigging up our rods.

Day two started overcast with sporadic drizzle of rain and again we ventured into the canyon section farther upstream from Boyden than the the day before. We climbed down the rock embankment to the river to



the first in a series of large plunge pools with big boulders separating them. A few hits on the tail out of these pools didn't produce any netted fish, but suddenly I heard my friend upstream and saw him fighting a fish. Running up the embankment, up the road, then back down to the water I scooped up the fish with the only net our group had just as

the rain began to pick up. It was a 10" rainbow, the biggest of the trip thus far.

After a few more minutes we went back to the car and drove up to the next spot, passing a few fly fishermen's cars. At this next spot there was a really good-looking hole that formed just to the side of a car-sized boulder where a tree had been lodged in the upstream side providing nice cover. Just downstream of the tree the hole deepened then began to ramp back up with a small boulder garden forming on the ramp. I snuck up onto the rock and began drifting my nymphs through this sweet spot. Just then the rain started to pick up and I pulled one fish after another out of the boulder garden. I still haven't gotten the hang of detecting the strikes by sight as Devin Olsen preaches, but on this particular trip that limitation did not lessen my experience much. The last fish pulled from that spot was the trip record an 11 inch rainbow. After a few more drifts I decided that I should catch up with my friends who were trekking upstream—to brag, I mean, share with them my luck.

After a late lunch and a hike up to Roaring River Falls we stopped just downstream of the confluence with Lewis Creek. Here were some bigger pools and some nice runs. My friends caught a few nice rainbows from the pools and I went to the runs where I hooked into a fish on the fly off my surgeons knot tag, and was giving me a good fight. He darted under a rock and I continued to apply pressure to coax him out. After a few seconds I saw the fish dart downstream, but my line remained taut and pointed at the rock. That little guy outsmarted me and swung the point fly underneath the rock and used the slack in the tag to wiggle out. After tying on a new point fly, I tried again and hooked onto another, but this guy was getting the better of me too and darted downstream. I tried to run after him, but all the rock piles slowed my advance. Finally I got to the pool and started applying side pressure to get him into the net until the hook slipped out of his mouth. The hook had bent almost straight. I was already not a fan of this hook and now I know not to buy it again.

By this time it was getting dark and my sighter was getting harder and harder to see while the fear of encountering a bear was growing, so we called it a night.

The next morning my friends were heading out early, so I decided to join them on their hike to the General Grant Tree and then drive over and see how Dorst Creek and the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River were looking this time of year. It turned out both were running very low and the Kaweah was just a trickle in comparison to the signs of its high water mark. I learned the lesson: Don't go exploring if the fishing is good where you are, which I guess reduces to—appreciate what you have.



ESRG- Eastern Sierra Bamboo Rod Gathering

John Parmenter

The annual Eastern Sierra Rod Gathering for Bamboo Rod Makers and rod enthusiasts has happily made a comeback this year after being put on hold for the last few years due to the Covid pandemic. Meeting in Bridgeport, CA, were over twenty makers mostly from California with others traveling from Nevada...all to cast, show, and discuss bamboo rods.

About 20-25 people attended with about 20 of us being cane rod makers. We were asked to bring some of our rods along for others to cast. For my part I brought two, 4 wt. rods, and one 3 wt. I would estimate about 40 cane rods were provided for casting. I didn't have a chance to try



them all, but I will say that the ones I did cast handled beautifully. It was a treat not only to cast them but to admire the workmanship that went into them. Having gone to cane rod gatherings in the past, I always walk away with new ideas on how to improve my craft by drawing from the skills and innovative techniques of others.

Of the rods I did cast, a few stood out for me. One in particular was a 7' 6", 4 wt. made by Lisa Cutter who lives in Lee Vining. I asked her about the rod and was told it follows a Dickerson 7613 taper. I was



impressed with the balance of the rod and the effortless way it cast, laying out line both in close range and when loading it up, in longer casts. I made a note to myself to follow this taper, and make a rod for myself in the coming months.

The second rod that I really enjoyed casting was made by Bob McCall. Many of you know Bob as a former Club member. Bob had a 5', 3 wt. rod which followed a Nunly 504A taper. It was a sweet little rod and a pleasure to cast. As I was casting it repeatedly in the short, 10 to 20 foot range, Bob urged me from behind, saying, "Lay out some line, John!

Take it out to 30-40 feet!" I laughed and started stripping line from the reel and did what he asked, and smiled as it handled the extra line nicely and made the distance. Talking with Bob later about the rod he told me he made it from scrap strips of cane he had in his shop. All makers have them; I have my share, so I figure that's another rod I'll put on my wish list to make.

It's always good to run into Bob and share information on rod making. We're often on the same wavelength when discussing rod-making techniques and what we look for in rod tapers. Bob is a gifted craftsman and when asked offers his suggestions on what often turns out to be a better way to go about the rod making process. With this meeting I learned a few tricks from him about splitting bamboo culms to get the most usable strips from them, a method I'll try in the coming days.

The rest of the day was filled with a variety of presentations by rod makers, including roughing out bamboo strips on a home-made router driven beveling machine, jigs made for drilling precise holes in the center of cork to make rod grips, splitting bamboo culms to optimize the number of

usable strips, making seamless loops at the end of fly line using shrink tubing and a hair straightener (yup, you read that correctly), and making bamboo rod bags from deconstructed kimono material.

Later in the day there was a contest, billed as a shootout. Many of the rod makers brought 8', 6 wt. rods they made to compete for bragging rights as to which one handled the best. Two judges went about the process of casting the 20 or so rods entered to determine which one they felt was best. After what proved to be a tight contest, they selected one made by Lisa Cutter to be a shade above the others.



The evening concluded with a great meal prepared by some of the guys (more food?!?)...and then a silent raffle. All in all it was a great rod gathering, with a chance to connect with rod makers I've come to know and to make some new friends along the way.

As an attendee this year, I just received an email from Tom Lucas, one of the organizers of this year's rod gathering. In part he wrote, "...next year's shootout...will be a 7' x 3wt. rod of any construction and once again, must come fully equipped to cast....your reel and line. A 7.5 ft. tapered 4X leader (yarn attached, please) must be part of the rig." After reading this I thought, "What better reason could I have than to start planning **and** planning for next year's rod gathering?"

Connie Bullock

Membership Chair
SWC Club Representative

There are a couple of events coming up in 2023 for the Southwest Council such as the Trout Rodeo on 2/4/23 (see below).

In other news the Federation of Flyfishers will be hosting the upcoming Flyfishers Virtual Expo on 11/4/22, so please check out the website for all the information for registration and classes at <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/virtual-expo>.

The Southwest Council has some events also coming up such as The Double Hall Ball set for 12/10/22 at the Long Beach Casting Club from 9:00 until 4:00. Then in 2023, The Trout Rodeo is going to happen on 2/4/23, followed by Fly Buy on 5/6/23 also at the Long Beach Casting Club. Hopefully, more events will be coming during the new year and I will let you know. If you'd like to volunteer for any events, please let me know as I'm the SWC Volunteer Director. Thank you.



We had so much fun with you in February that we want to do it again. We have set the date for February 4, 2023. More specific details will follow but block out that weekend, and we hope to see you there. Some of you can defend your titles! Be sure to share this with friends as we really want this event to grow. Questions? Contact event organizer, Michael Schweit, at either this email or 818.6019702.

Looking forward to seeing you at the California Fly Fishing Open!

The 2022 California Fly Fishing Open OCTOBER 8, 2022

DEAR CLUB
REPS,

HOPE YOUR
MEMBERS
WILL FORM
A TEAM TO
REPRESENT
YOUR CLUB
as we
continue this
great
fundraiser for
Casting for
Recovery
SoCal & The
Kern Valley
Search and
Rescue!



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 8
KERNVILLE, CA**

Benefits Casting for Recovery SoCal and Kern Valley Search and Rescue.

Teams: This will be a 5 person team event with a registration fee of \$50 per person - or \$250 for a 5 person team. If you do not have a complete team of 5, we will place you with a team in need of more people. Teams do not have to be official fly fishing clubs to participate.

The evening festivities will have raffles galore, vendors, team parade, fly fishing games, tournament awards, and beverages & live music from Par Avion and the Stoneflys. Everyone in attendance will be eligible to play Heads or Tails for a custom fly rod build by Chiaki Harami.

<https://ssffclub.org/california-fly-fishing-open>

The 2022 California Fly Fishing Open is coming back to Kern River and you're invited to join the 6th annual CFFO!!

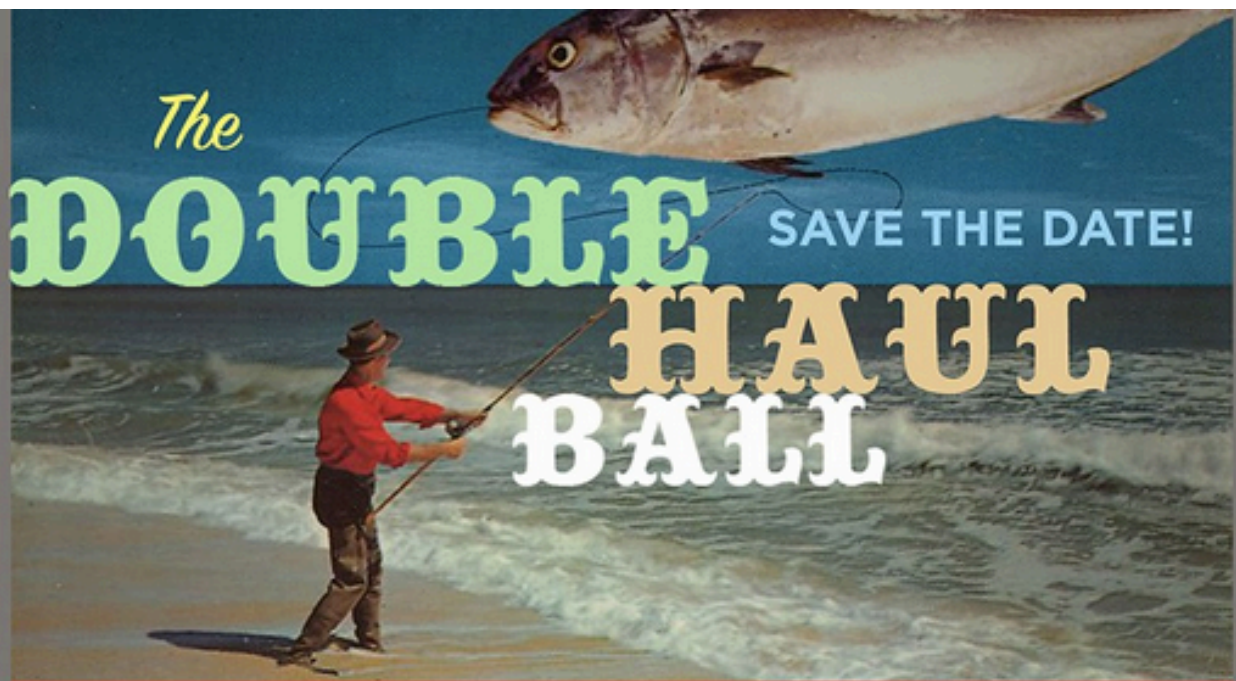
One of our many goals as a fly fishing club is to give back to the community. We created the California Fly Fishing Open with the hope of building stronger ties with fishy fly fishing folks while also giving back to such an amazing community. This year entry net proceeds will benefit [Casting for Recovery SoCal](#) and [Kern Valley Search and Rescue](#).

- Start the day with the five-person team tournament on the mighty Kern River. *Note: Clubs can have more than one five-person team.*
- Check-in will be at the Kern River Fly Shop at 7:00 am.
- You can pick up any last-minute fly-fishing supplies, scorecards and listen to general tournament announcements.
- Turn in the scorecard at the shop by 2:00 pm sharp and head over to Rivernook Campground for the afternoon and evening festivities starting at 3:00 pm.
- There will be raffles galore, vendors, team parade*, fly fishing games, tournament awards, beverages, delicious BBQ dinner, and **LIVE MUSIC** for your entertainment!! Bernard Yin's Par Avion, Guy Jean's "The Stoneflies" & special guests!
- *Team shirts & club banners are encourage for the group parade (like the Olympics).*

Everyone in attendance will be eligible to play Heads or Tails for a custom fly rod build by Chiaki Harami.

Join the fun by going to the SSFF-Club's website:

<https://ssffclub.org/california-fly-fishing-open>



The **DOUBLE** **HAUL**
BALL **SAVE THE DATE!**

FLY TYING | FLY CASTING | SEMINARS | GEAR | TUTORIALS

Long Beach Casting Club

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, 12/10/22, 9am to 4pm

for directions please visit: longbeachcastingclub.org



The Double Haul Ball is an educational all day event designed to promote and teach the basics of saltwater fly fishing.

Net proceeds from this event will be donated to Youth Programs: Southwest Council FFI Youth Program & The MayFly Project.



love2flyfishmedia.bigcartel.com



THE MAYFLY PROJECT



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Southwest Council

www.swcffi.org/dhb

A Love2FlyFish Media | Southwest Council FFI Educational Series

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.