

# March - 2022

## Volume 16, Issue 2



# Casting Times

## Calendar of Events

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





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FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council



# The Riffle

by Jamie Barber

Welcome to the new Riffle. Dick Harris was an amazing writer and I know I will not be as eloquent as he was in writing this column. I do promise to do my best, and any help with sending me your stories and quick excerpts from your trips would be appreciated.

Just a little about me. I recently came to flyfishing while working in Canada. I learned to fly fish on a pond that belonged to a private fishing club. I was horrible but enthusiastic. After my weekend at the club I did not fly fish again for several years due to work. Then a few years ago I ran into Dick Harris at a function at the Santa Clarita Central Park. With Dick's gift of gab, he persuaded me to join the club. It was a great decision.

This club is very lucky to have a great group of fly fishing enthusiasts. I could not ask for better mentors than Ray Bianco, Michael Peratis, Jon Simle, Barry Weber and Connie Bullock.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to fly fish Lake George and Crowley Lake, as well as Piru Creek with Johnathan Summer and La Conchita with Jon Simle and Barry Weber. These are all experiences that I would have never had without joining our club.

Ray Bianco and Michael Peratis have refined my casting, and Ray has now addicted me to spey casting. With Ray I have been taking trips to the Pasadena Casting Club's pond and working on my spey casting. I will be chasing steelhead and salmon soon.

I have also become addicted to fly tying, thanks to Jon Simle and Michael Peratis. In addition I have also become obsessed with rod building. Chiaki Harami has been nice enough to teach some of us (Jonathan Summer, John Malerba, Cece & Matt Rubin, Barry Sauter and myself) in a class at John Malerba's. It was a great



day. I now have a very nice rod and will continue to build rods thanks to Chiaki's great instructions. For the record, Jonathan took his completed rod to the Trout Rodeo and caught a couple of trout on it. Well done, Jonathan!

A few weeks back I went with Jon Simle to La Conchita where we met up with Barry Weber and Ted Clark. It was a beautiful day with great surf conditions. I got skunked, but the others caught some small perch and corbina. We finished the day with a great lunch at Cozy's in Santa Paula. If you haven't tried surf fishing yet, you should join us on the next outing; it was a great time.

At the end of February I went fishing with Johnathan Summer at Piru Creek; it was an unusually hot day for February. I went in shorts and a t-shirt which was a rookie mistake. The black flies ate me up! It took a month to recover from the bites. To make matters worse we didn't catch or see one trout, and we fished from Frenchman's Flat to right below the dam. I have learned my lesson. I will be wearing long sleeves, long pants and using Deet spray from now on. I spent five and a half months in the jungles of Malaysia and did not get bitten like that!

**"What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch."**

Patrick F. McManus

**“We have grown from five members in 2005 to nearly 50 members in 2022—a tenfold increase—not because we are situated near trophy trout waters, but because we enjoy being around each other. It’s that simple.”**

We've lost another member. Following on the heels of Dick and Paulette Harris, who recently moved to Flower Mound, Texas, Chris and Susan Taylor just left the dependably sunny climate of the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys for St. George, Utah. It seems that the abundant trout fishing opportunities in the north Los Angeles County were just not enough to keep these two dedicated fly fishers and their families here.

Now, with the move of these two prominent members of the Santa Clarita Casting Club, you might be tempted to think that our club's strength—which is its members—would be diminished. But I don't see it that way. I see the moves of club members away from this area as a positive. Here's why: The kind of club that we have is built around, promotes, and thrives on, the immutable traits of friendship, camaraderie, selflessness, humor, and generosity of its members. We have grown from five members

in 2005 to nearly 50 members in 2022—a tenfold increase—not because we are situated near trophy trout waters, but because we enjoy being around each other. It's that simple.

What we have developed in the Santa Clarita Casting Club goes with its members, even when they move. While we miss those members who relocate to other areas, we (1) often stay in touch with them and get together when they are passing through Los Angeles and (2) are sending them out to join other fishing clubs in their new towns to infuse those fly fishers with many of the same traits that characterize this club.

So, members moving is a good thing. Some would say that we're “paying it forward” by populating other fishing clubs with members who have experienced and grown in the welcoming and nurturing culture that is the Santa Clarita Casting Club.

Other than our own club, I have visited three other casting clubs in Los Angeles.

## Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

All three of those clubs are renowned groups with well-deserved prominence and a deep roster of famous fly fishers. However, as great as those clubs are, I believe that the Santa Clarita Casting Club is the friendliest, most welcoming, and enthusiastic of the clubs. And, in terms of involvement, we average around one-third of the membership as being very involved in the club's activities. That speaks well of the members, the breadth of activities we offer, and the friendships that have been cultivated.

So, when our members relocate, we are, in a sense, sending them out as emissaries of our club to other clubs that will likely benefit from their experiences here. Hopefully, the Santa Clarita Casting Club has set the bar high, and the expectations even higher, so that the members who leave here will be a plus (my former boss called it "value added") for the new clubs they join. In the case of Chris and Dick, who knows but what they will bring new enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and a different perspective to their new clubs. Add to that their friendliness and fishing and tying experience that will augment that of their newfound friends, and you have a win-win scenario.

While it is never easy to lose members, it is, nonetheless, an opportunity to seed other clubs with experienced fishermen and fisherwomen who have knowledge and ideas that can only help improve those clubs. Likewise, the loss of long-

time members again demonstrates the resilience of the Santa Clarita Casting Club in that we can weather the loss of members who have added so much to the club and still maintain our effectiveness and enthusiasm. I find the following two quotes to be encouraging



**CHRIS ON HIS NEW "HOME WATERS"**

when it comes to losing old friends and making new ones:

"We need old friends to help us grow old and new friends to help us stay young."  
– Letty Cottin Pogrebin

"Strangers are just friends waiting to happen." – Rod McKuen

See you at the next meeting.

## A Day at the Pasadena Casting Pond

Photos by Jamie Barber

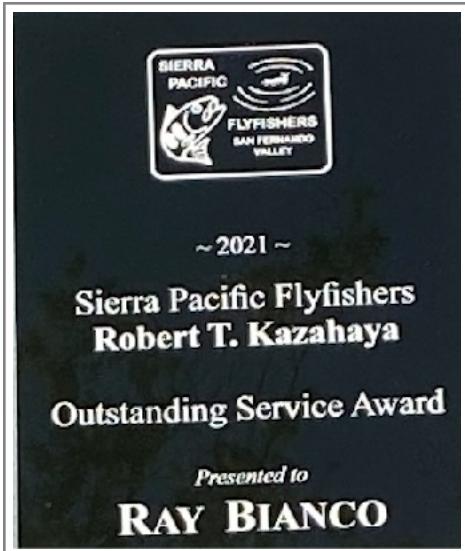


## Rod Building with Chiaki Harami

Photos by Cece Rubin







## Ray Bianco Receives The Robert T. Kazahaya Service Award From Sierra Pacific Flyfishers

by Michael Peratis

What's your fly casting pleasure ... Just the basics? Roll Cast? Double Haul? Curve Cast? Reach Cast? Single Handed Spey? Double Handed Spey? Tuck Cast? Downstream Slack Line Casts? If you want to know about fly casting, Ray's your man! There are very few SCCC or SPFF members who haven't learned or

improved their casting with Ray's guidance. He can usually be found at Valencia Meadows Park in Santa Clarita at least a couple of Sundays a month, Lake Balboa in Van Nuys a couple of Saturdays a month, and the pond at PCC whenever someone needs some "on the water" help. He gets around a lot! (Maybe not so much now with \$6/gal gas).

In 2021 the Board of Directors at Sierra Pacific Flyfishers voted to present this award at SPFF's dinner meeting last December in recognition of Ray's Outstanding Service. As luck would have it, the plaque was not ready in time for the meeting. Time passed—More Covid, so no live in-person meetings—now the plaque was ready but we weren't.

Finally, a decision was made to make the presentation at Lake Balboa on March 19th at a little ceremony and take a photo with casting students gathered around. Didn't happen...Ray's knee went out! So, on March 20th at Valencia Meadows Park, on the coldest, most windy damn day of the year (can you tell by my jacket that he's wearing?) I was able to finally present Ray his well deserved award. Then we left and had breakfast.



## **Connie Bullock**

**Membership Chair/SWC**

**Club Representative**

**M**embership renewal is coming to a close and we've maintained most of our members. Thank you, members, for your support and dedication to this great club. Also, thanks to the generosity of many of the club members to help fund the upcoming D&O Liability insurance. It is something we've needed for a long time and the FFI has created a special offer for all clubs at only \$450 per year, which is incredibly reasonable.

The next hurdle is to find a consistent meeting place. Jamie Barber has continuously provided a meeting place in his backyard, but it's now time to find our own home. We were meeting at Keller Williams bldg., but the room is no longer available to us. It would be great to find a place that provides Internet connection so we can be 'in-person' as well as provide Zoom. If anyone has suggestions, please let any of the board members know and we can pursue it further.

The club's next monthly meeting (Annual General Membership aka AGM) is coming up on 4/13/22. We will be electing (or re-electing) members to the Board. If you have any interest in joining the team, please let us know.

John Malerba and Cece Rubin are working on a club trip to Bishop around the weekend of May 13-17, so watch for more information. Also, please check out the website as there is a lot of information provided. One of the Tabs is **Activities** and we are working on putting trip information on the site, so go to [www.scflyfishing.org](http://www.scflyfishing.org) and checkout the **Activities** and **Calendar** Tabs for up updated information. Information is also on page 13 of this newsletter.

# MAY 12-15, 2022

## SCCC SPRING OUTING

**SCCC OUTING LEADER: JOHN MALERBA**  
[john@johnmalerba.com](mailto:john@johnmalerba.com) / 661-755-1071

THE FOCUS IS TO FISH THE OWENS VALLEY  
& ADJOINING LAKES



- **THURSDAY | MAY 12 – TRAVEL DAY**
  - ARRIVE & SETTLE IN.
  - PRE-DINNER FISHING OR DINNER.
  - DINNER AT: [ASTORGAS \(Mexican\)](#)
- **FRIDAY & SATURDAY | MAY 13 & 14**
  - MEET EVERY MORNING AT [JACK'S RESTAURANT](#) AT 7:30AM TO DISCUSS THE DAY'S PLAN
  - PACK A LUNCH & BEVERAGES IN PLANNING TO BE OUT FISHING PAST LUNCH TIME – OR – IF FISHING IS SLOW WE'LL TAKE A BREAK & GO OUT FOR PRE-SUNSET/DINNER FISHING.
  - GROUP DINNERS OUT (optional):
    - FRIDAY > [HOLY SMOKES \(great BBQ!\)](#)
    - SATURDAY > [UPPER CRUST PIZZA \(Italian\)](#)
- **SUNDAY OPTIONS | MAY 15**
  - BREAKFAST BEFORE LEAVING FOR HOME.
  - BREAKFAST & FISH IN THE MORNING BEFORE LEAVING FOR HOME.
  - SOME MAY WANT THE DAY TO THEMSELVES TO DO AS THEY PLEASE.
  -
- **OVERVIEW OF EVENING GROUP DINNERS – 6:30PM**
  - THURSDAY – MEXICAN / [ASTORGAS](#)
  - FRIDAY – GREAT BBQ / [HOLY SMOKES](#)
  - SATURDAY – ITALIAN / [UPPER CRUST PIZZA](#)
- **SIERRA BRIGHT DOT REPORTS | [WATER FLOWS](#) | [FISHING REPORT](#)**
- **BRING/PACK WARM CLOTHING FOR HIGHER ALTITUDES.**
- **LODGING SUGGESTIONS & LINKS.**
  - Before booking, always ask about cancellation policies.
    - CAMPGROUNDS > [LINK](#)
    - BROWN'S TOWN RV PARK > [LINK](#)
    - EASTSIDE GUESTHOUSE & BIVY > [LINK](#)
      - Assorted setups for sleeping including TWO “bunkhouse” for groups. Splitting the cost would be affordable. Beautiful common areas like kitchen and living room. Outdoor patio & pond. Email Jon & Jamie to get more info on group lodgings: [jamie@jamiebarberhomes.com](mailto:jamie@jamiebarberhomes.com) / [jonsimle@gmail.com](mailto:jonsimle@gmail.com)
    - THUNDERBIRD MOTEL, Same owners for 40 years! > [LINK](#)



## Updated Fly-Tying Schedule for 2022

**Bi-Monthly Fly-Tying Classes are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Thursday of the month.**  
**Meeting location TBD prior to the meeting.** Classes starting at 6:30 PM so please check the club website for further details as things change [www.scflyfishing.org](http://www.scflyfishing.org)

3/31/22	8/11/22
4/14/22	8/25/22
4/28/22	9/8/22
5/12/22	9/29/22
5/26/22	10/13/22
6/9/22	10/27/22
6/30/22	11/10/22
7/14/22	12/8/22
7/28/22	12/29/22
Skipping 11/24/22 for Thanksgiving	

If you have further need for more fly tying classes, feel free to attend the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers class which takes place each Wednesday starting at 6:45 on Zoom. Please check the SCCC calendar ([www.scflyfishing.org](http://www.scflyfishing.org)) for the Zoom information and material requirements for the current pattern. Feel free to enter anytime.

## Trout Rodeo

The Trout Rodeo held on 2/26/22 at the Bishop Fairgrounds turned out to be an absolute blast and I want to thank everyone who came out to help and to compete. It was quite chilly in the mornings and evenings but lovely during the day. There were 41 anglers that participated and 152 pictures were entered into the app iAngler. The food truck worked well and smelled amazing. With this kind of success, I'm thinking it's a keeper and we will be doing it again next year.

*Southwest Council has some upcoming events and everyone is invited join:*

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** is the SWC Board of Directors meeting on Zoom from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and all are invited.

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** is Club Management Day on Zoom from 9:00 AM until 12:30 PM. There are several breakout rooms provided including everything from Presidents Leadership, Communications, Conservation, Liability Insurance, Education, Event Planning, How to Grow Membership, Women's Programs, and Youth Programs. If you've never attended this, it's a must. So much has been learned from these Programs and I hope you can attend.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** is Fly Buy, that will take place at LBCC on May 21, 2022. As more information is received it will be passed on to the membership. Thank you.



## 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.