

# January - 2022

## Volume 16, Issue 1



SANTA CLARITA  
CASTING CLUB  
FLY FISHING



# Casting Times

April, 2013

Volume 7, Issue 4

## Calendar of Events

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





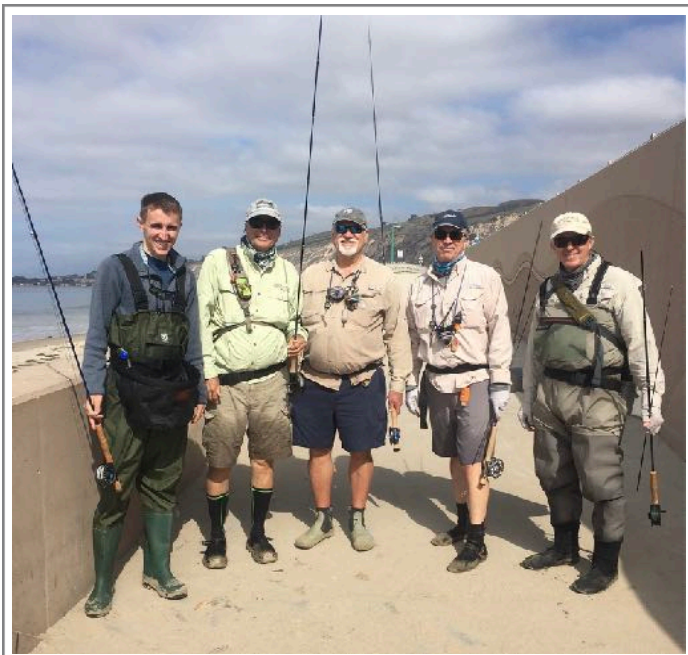
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**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council



# The Riffle

by Dick Harris

## A Few Random Thoughts...

I recently moved to a small town in North Texas and am still in the process of finding and unpacking all sorts of my fishing equipment and materials. We each have our angling stuff organized on shelves and in bins and easily accessible. I found the move to turn this upside down and now everything needs to be located, re-organized and found a place for! In one large packing box, I came across my box of midges that had somehow opened in transport and repopulated my vest, waders, socks and hats. Tweezer time.

That being said, in going through my stuff I've rediscovered items accumulated or made over the years that are an important part of my fly fishing world . . . like the ski-pole-wading-stick I've used for years and the fly dry container contraption that I have hanging from my vest.



Over the past weeks as I settle into this Lone Star State, I've been thinking about what this crazy and addictive sport really means to me and the great pleasure it has given me over the years — exploring Yellowstone for a dozen

summers, finding remote waters in the Sierras with club members, and hiking Yellowstone a few years back with Mr. Parmenter.

I'm really looking forward to exploring the nearby Trinity and Red Rivers, both well known here for their big bass. Fly fishing is a quiet sport that by its very nature requires an awareness of surroundings, detailed preparation, and complete focus. I guess what hits me is how connected and really in the moment I feel when I am on water — from the breaking waves and crying gulls along Rincon Beach to the silence and sweet air of Slough Creek.

As Donovan put it in a '70s folk song, "we all are a part of everything anyway," and that's what fly fishing creates for me. When a day on the water comes together, I find myself tuned in and very connected to things around me. Without getting too heavy here, I would go so far as to say there is a magic and feeling of oneness with the moment and the setting, and you know when you're in it. As seen on the home page of our website, Norman MacLean puts it simply — "Eventually, all things merge into one and a river runs through it."

Okay, now I've got to go after those midges!

*"Choosing to become a fly-fisher, or at least committing to being a fly-only angler, makes me feel like I'm washing away the grime from my fishing tackle to reveal the beauty of what lies beneath."*

— Fennel Hudson, [Fly Fishing - Fennel's Journal - No. 5](#)



**ED. Note:** Dick sent along this pic of a "crazy cusk" caught in New Hampshire probably through the ice, and most likely not on a fly!

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## Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

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“While too many aspects of our culture have been disrupted, or severely curtailed, due to the COVID pandemic, the Santa Clarita Casting Club members and activities continue to stand out as a beacon in a sea of confusion and change.”

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair....” Of course, we all recognize this as the poignant opening to Charles Dickens’ famous novel about the French Revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

In many ways, Dickens’ brilliant description of a world where everything is upside down, backwards, and characterized by extremes aptly describes the times we live in. Which one of us, over the last two years, hasn’t felt a bit like a character living through the French Revolution? As such, I have to agree with what Dr. David Hegg recently said about aspects of our culture: “We’re losing the important sense of community, that we really are in this together, even though we know that love for our neighbor is the foundation of any ordered, productive, and satisfying society.”

Sociologists often talk about the importance of community and the value of drawing people into community for both their mental

and emotional health.

While the loss of a strong sense of community is a regrettable byproduct of our modern culture, the good news is that, in our small segment of the society—the Santa Clarita Casting Club membership—we have been able to maintain a strong sense of community, camaraderie, consideration for others, selflessness, friendship, sharing, a shared sense of purpose, a common interest, and a conscious effort that help us avoid letting the polarizing effects of politics, religion, and cultural differences separate us or keep us from sharing in the joys and benefits of our favorite sport: fly fishing.

While too many aspects of our culture have been disrupted, or severely curtailed, due to the COVID pandemic, the Santa Clarita Casting Club members and activities continue to stand out as a beacon in a sea of confusion and change. In spite of the challenges of living in a pandemic-dominated society, our club continues with in-person fly tying classes and casting instruction, monthly meetings, impromptu breakfasts at our local restaurants, Zoom book club meetings, surf fishing trips, excursions to the Pasadena Casting Club’s

practice pond, and soon-to-begin in-person rod building classes. When added to our regular club newsletter available to all members, the periodic fly tying materials and equipment raffles, and our annual holiday party, we maintain a robust presence on-line and in-person.

The shared sense of community that we generate and promote as an important aspect of the Santa Clarita Casting Club often goes unnoticed, but it is, nonetheless, an important part of living in what can sometimes be a culture characterized by individualism and isolation. Again, quoting from Dr. Hegg, he states that, "I've watched otherwise successful people melt down in the face of situations that, while horrible, have been managed by many before them who understood that it is not what happens to us *but how we respond that really matters.*" We in the Santa Clarita Casting Club have responded by maintaining—and in some cases

increasing—the opportunities to stay connected with like-minded fly fishers. As such, we are thriving while many organizations and institutions are waning or have even disappeared. For that, we can be thankful.

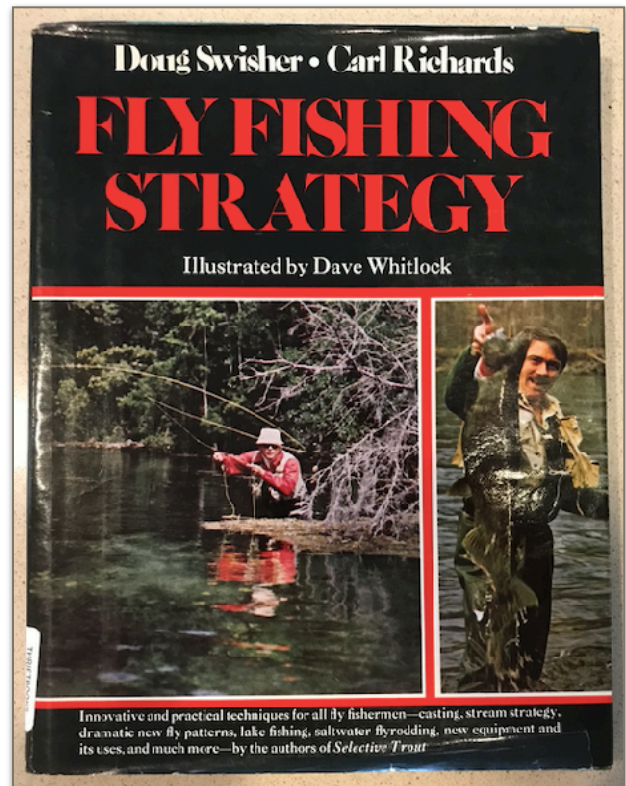
To underscore the above, a member of our club recently mentioned to me that, while he has belonged to other fishing clubs, he prefers our club. That preference comes from (his words) our club's "approachability, friendliness, sense of humor, and camaraderie." Enough said.

So, while we are definitely living in an age of unsettledness and uncertainty, one thing remains unchanged: the terrific sense of community, inclusivity, and friendliness that characterizes the Santa Clarita Casting Club and for which each of you is responsible.

See you at the next meeting.

Looking to hone your fly fishing skills while enjoying the company of Club members—at the same time? It's easy! Join us for an upcoming Zoom Book Club Reading! Come mid-February we'll be discussing our next book, FLY FISHING STRATEGY, by two experts in the field, Doug Swisher and Carl Richards.

**Contact Bill or Connie for more information on Zooming along and suggestions on where to purchase the book!**



# Fishing on the East Fork of the Carson River

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. We caught two at each and that was it. No dry fly fishing—all nymphs.



# Now You See 'em, Now You Don't

John Parmenter



Following an afternoon of surf fishing at Hollywood Beach recently, I text messaged some of our Club members saying I had good fishing, having released 5 perch in an hour's time—good numbers that I'd take any day. I went on to say that I was going to hit the surf the following morning and fish the same area, and asked if anyone would like to join me.

Roger Knudson was available and met me at the beach around 7:30 (I had a fishless head start of about a half hour before he arrived). The weather and water conditions were ideal with dark overcast skies and surf on the smaller side. We had a great trough with excellent depth in front of us that ran 100 yards or more along the beach giving us plenty of water to explore.

Everything was in place for a terrific outing. And yet, we cast and cast and cast... and stripped and stripped and stripped line back for about two hours with not too much to show for our efforts. Each of us released two perch, I believe, and walked away scratching our heads wondering why the fish hadn't shown up. It was a classic case of...*"You should have been here yesterday"*.

And so it goes. Despite the low fish count, I know Roger would agree with me that it was an enjoyable morning in the surf.

# My First Trip to the Lower Owens

## Jonathan Summer

### A Glimpse of the River

**M**y excitement rose as I drove up the 395 towards Bishop and the Lower Owens. It being the first time in the area, I had only heard stories and seen pictures about this river and knew that I had plenty more to learn. Pulling into the Day Use parking at the end of the paved portion of Chalk Bluff Road, I began to get my things setup for the hike along the river.



Only 3 hours remained before I had to leave for dinner in Mammoth. In front of me was a wide stretch of land with only a few bushes blocking my view. I could see that there were no more than 3 people in the first mile of the river downstream of the pedestrian bridge by Pleasant Valley Campground.

The water temperature read 43 degrees which led me to assume nymphs would be the preferred diet. Starting off I tried a nymph rig with a small yarn indicator and ran it through the briskly moving water (not the riffles or the slow moving pools but something in between). Being an amateur with the yarn indicator, and also in general, I didn't properly secure the indicator to the line causing it to shift all the way down to the nymph. Not desiring to spend a few minutes figuring it out I instead used it as an excuse to try out one of the BH Woolly Buggers I recently

tied. Hitting all the typical areas with the bugger had no luck, so I decided to change tactics again. I had yet to see a fish which was unexpected, not because I am an amazing sight fisherman, but because I always see at least a fish or two spook when I get too close to the river. Not even seeing this I figured I better go back to nymphing, especially given the water temperature.

Presently I tied on my tried and true method of a dry-dropper rig using a grasshopper pattern as an indicator, changing my leader to 2X, then tying on a size 16 zebra midge down about 3 feet below. I knew the grasshopper was very unlikely to catch anything, but I always prefer to have everything on the water have a hook just in case. With this rig I picked up speed covering water and would follow the grasshopper along the bank as it bobbed down the foam line of the river.

Again a long stretch of no activity had me a bit down when suddenly I glanced down near the bank to the side of a submerged rock and saw what appeared to be a tail fin and a dorsal fin of a 20 inches long trout and moving into the current regularly to feed on nymphs underneath the rippling water. I tossed my rig upstream and to the side of him and drifted the nymph into his path. Nothing. Tried again. Nothing. As tight to the bank as I could. Nothing. Right over top? Nothing. As I was engaged in this, I noticed a fish rise to the surface with a small splash just downstream of my position. Extending my drift to include this area as well, I was disappointed when I saw no subsequent activity in this new area. After about 20 minutes of this a pocket of uniform water drifted over "my fish" which gave me a clear view of what I had been targeting for over 10% of the total time I had on the water. It was a weed, carefully designed to mimic the motion and appearance of the trophy I sought. Perhaps the rise I saw earlier was just the artist behind this rouse letting it be known that he had beaten me.

Attempting to put that loss behind me, I ventured farther down river and decided to prioritize scouting out the river to hopefully gain some knowledge for future, hopefully more successful, trips. Overturning rocks I found BWO nymphs in plenty which matched up



with the hatch chart I had seen in a book, not that this knowledge had done me any good up to now. After a few more drifts proved unsuccessful I rounded out the day by having a fish rise just a couple seconds after my nymph had drifted by.

The following day I visited the Touthitter in Mammoth and was told that I should target the heads of pools on my next visit. On my way home from Mammoth I had to give it another try, but had limited time. With only 30 minutes, I jogged past two fly fisherman nymphing the water just downstream of the campground bridge and found a place that matched the description I had been given. My rig: Bobber, 2 feet to a Griffith's Gnat, then 1.5 feet to a size 20 BWO nymph (not sure the exact pattern). A few drifts, nothing. Jogging to the next spot I tried again. Finally, a fish came up and took my Griffith's Gnat. I set the hook, but I was late. He got off before I could set the hook. I of course stayed another 10 minutes past my alarm trying to produce another bite, but I had no luck. In hindsight I probably should have tried moving my bobber up and adding a little weight between the flies since the water was moving at a steady pace. Anyway, I headed back to the car excited for the next round at the Lower Owens. After having more success in 30 minutes than I had in the 3 hours of my first outing, I am confident that my next try will yield success.

On a side note, for those who sympathize with my weed fish you may be able to relate to this video I made with some friends: <https://youtu.be/5DMX8GSZwF8>

# **Connie Bullock**

## **Membership Chair/SWC Club Representative**

**S**CCC has renewed membership with FFI, so please check their website as it has a lot of great information [www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org)

- We received word from the city and we did not qualify for the offered Grant of \$4500. Hopefully next year.
- The club is going to set up Saturday on the water casting clinic at Pasadena Casting Clinic the Saturday between the Sunday clinics. Check out the website [www.scflyfishing.org](http://www.scflyfishing.org) for dates and information.
- The rod building class currently has 7 attendees making this a very full class happening on 2/19. Thank you, Chiaki Harami, for making this happen. The club greatly appreciates your generosity. Also, thanks to John Malerba for offering his garage to make this a meeting place.
- This past year we were blessed with an anonymous donation that allowed us to purchase Liability Insurance. With the upcoming Membership renewal, we are asking for a donation to let us continue this feature as it opens up many possibilities to the club. Membership renewal will be sent out the 1st of February with renewal due by March 31. We appreciate your membership, support, and help keeping the club going in these trying times. This will also be the time to elect new members to the Board.

### **UPCOMING BOARD ELECTIONS:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Potential</b>
President	Connie Bullock	Jamie Barber
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jamie Barber	OPEN
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (may not be needed)	John Malerba	OPEN

Treasurer	Jill Field-Duerr/Connie Bullock	Jill Field-Duerr/?
Sr. Director	Jon Simle	OPEN
Social Media/Newsletter	John Parmenter	John Parmenter
Web Administer	Jason Pai	Jason Pai
Membership	Connie Bullock	OPEN
Sr. Consultant	Ray Bianco	Ray Bianco
Financial Council	Aran Dokovna	Aran Dokovna

**CLUB COMMITTEES:**

Position	Current	Proposed Suggestion
Casting Clinic	Ray Bianco/Paul Riegert	Ray Bianco/Paul Riegert
Communications	Connie Bullock	OPEN
Fly Tying	Jon Simle	
Fundraising	OPEN	
Rod Building	OPEN	Chiaki Harami
Newsletter	John Parmenter	John Parmenter
Raffles/Merchandise	OPEN	
Trip Organizer	OPEN	
Club Roster	Connie Bullock	
SWC Rep	Connie Bullock	

**“They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream, but that's not quite it. What happens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the grand scheme of things, and suddenly they're just not such a big deal anymore.”**

**John Gierach**



**D**ue to the current situation, the Southwest Council FlyBuy event has been moved to 5/21/22, so get it on your calendars. Hopefully by then this surge will be over or at least limited.

The SWC is working on the next event taking place at the Bishop Fairground ... Trout Rodeo, 2/26/22. To make it as safe as possible, this event is conducted outdoors and

is a competition based on the app IAngler. See the instructions below.

Make your room reservations as soon as possible! Mention that you are there from a flyfishing club and are attending the Bishop Fairground event and hopefully motels will provide a discount like they did in past years. These are lean times, but it's worth asking. See you there!

***Ed. Note: Click on either of the graphics above to jump to additional information from the SWC on the Trout Rodeo!***

## Many of us fish the Lower Owens

and surrounding areas at this time of year and the Southwest Council thought it would be fun to have a safe and fun gathering. Trout Rodeo is a one day, catch and release, fishing event. It is open to fly fishing, lure fishing and even Tenkar! It is even open to Professional Fishing Guides (but they get to compete separately). The idea is to catch, measure and photograph your fish (and let them go) and the more landed "inches" you have, the more raffle tickets you will win to enter into one of our many prize buckets (and you can buy more tickets at the gate, too)!

To register for the event, just go to our event page ([click here](#)) and click on the upper right REGISTER button and follow the instructions. The rules and everything pertaining to the event is on this page and can be downloaded. Cost per person is 25.00 and you MUST have a smartphone as the scoring app works through your phone. Besides individual categories, we also have a TEAM category. In this case, just gather your friends, get them all to register and then pay an additional team fee of 20.00 (no matter the size of the team) by clicking [here](#). Teams will be scored by total catch inches and divided by the number of team anglers.

In our ongoing effort to keep our activities safe, the SWC is going to forgo a dinner gathering but we WILL meet at the Tri-County Fairgrounds for raffles, awards and prizes. In another time when everything is behind us, we promise to throw a rousing party with music, beverages and fun so you can hold us to that.

Questions? Contact event organizer, Michael Schweit, at either this email or 818-601-9702. Looking forward to seeing you there!




## Why Join SWCFFI

### Why join the SWCFFI?

1. It's a great way to further enhance your enjoyment of Fly Fishing.
2. A chance to help kids learn about Fly Fishing.
3. Have you ever wanted to help the declining fishery resources? Come see what SWCFFI is doing to "Conserve, Restore and Educate" on this subject.
4. Did you just want to improve your casting and tying skills? Well, what's a better resource then the SWCFFI which is comprised of 21 affiliated clubs! That means you would have access to hundreds of top-notch Fly Fishermen.





April showers bring May flowers  
and the newly rescheduled FLYBUY

## 11th annual FLYBUY

AN OUTDOOR EVENT!

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With a resurgence of covid, we at the Southwest Council FFI want to make this as safe an event as possible.

Please pencil in the new date of Saturday, May 21st. We will send you updates just before the event.

Thank you for your understanding and your patience. Be well and stay well!

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Who doesn't love a swap meet, right? And what if you could watch world renowned fly tiers and fly casting instructors at the same time? AND get a taco to boot?

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MAY 2022

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[MORE INFO](#)



FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council

**THIS WILL BE OUR 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FLYBUY! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!!**

**ONE OF THE BIGGEST ATTRACTIONS IS OUR GARAGE SALE!** It is the LARGEST of its kind on the entire West Coast. We get donations all year long of waders, boots, rods, reels and everything else related to fly fishing. Sometimes barely related but that just adds to the fun. For regulars, well, you know the deals you've found in the past and once again, **EVERYTHING MUST GO!!**

**FOR THE FIRST TIME** we will also have vendors showing off their latest gear AND offering show specials. Look for Snowbee USA, Fisherman's Spot, Sierra Nets and Damian Ross Ceramics.

Once again, we will be offering our **MONEY BACK GUARANTEED CASTING LESSONS!** We offer individual instruction for \$1.00/minute with a 20 minute minimum and **IF YOU DO NOT IMPROVE YOUR CASTING**, we will give you your money back. No questions asked. But just so you know, we have **NEVER** had a dissatisfied customer.

**VOLUNTEERS - WE NEED YOU!** We are looking for help for a few hours. The plus is you attend the event for free and coffee & donuts! Here is a list of the positions we are looking to fill > [\[PDF\]](#). Check it out and email Connie Bullock at [volunteers@swcffi.org](mailto:volunteers@swcffi.org) if you'd like to be a "cog in the wheels of this awesome event!

**RIFFLES OF RAFFLES.** Of course, no fishing event is ever complete without raffles! We have those throughout the day and even some silent auctions will be going on.

**THIS IS AN OUTDOOR EVENT FOR THE MOST PART.** And with Covid not being far from our minds at any point, most of the event is outdoors with the exception of some of the fly tiers. But we will also have tiers outdoors too so we are doing everything to keep you as safe as possible. Mask wearing is required to go into the club house and encouraged but not mandatory when outside. **WE WANT YOU SAFE SO YOU CAN FISH FOR YEARS TO COME!!**

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**LOCATION:**

**Long Beach Casting Club**  
**5201 E. 7th Street, Long Beach, CA 90804**

[Mapquest](#)

**EVENT HOURS:**

**9:00am to 5:00pm**

**ADMISSION - INCLUDES LUNCH**

**ADULTS: \$20.00.**

**UNDER 16 and VETS: Free**

**BRING/DONATE a new or lightly used item of 40.00  
retail value and get in FREE!**

**[VOLUNTEER POSITIONS NEEDED > CLICK HERE](#)**

**[SIGN UP TO HELP > CLICK HERE](#)**

## 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.