

# May- 2023

## Volume 17, Issue 3



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.



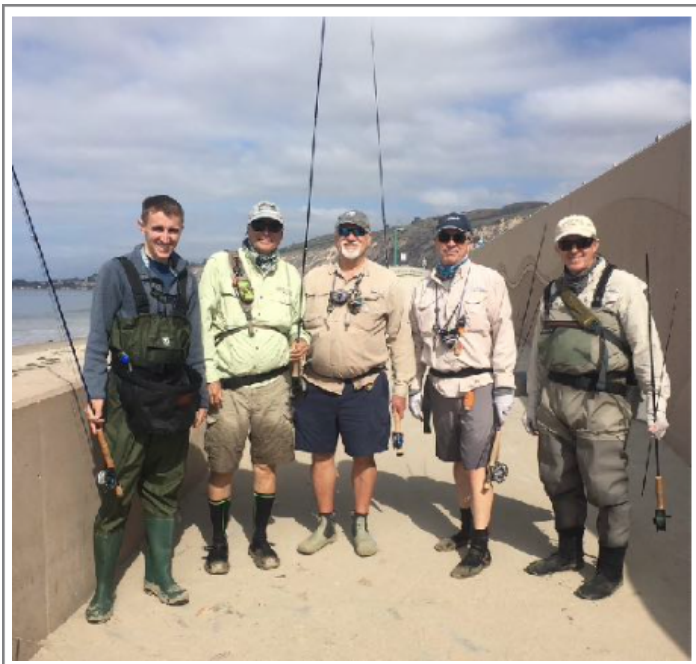
Tail. Poly Yarn Orange  
Legs. Sand Black Flake  
Flash. Blend White  
Hareline. Laser Dub Silver  
Flash Midge Pearl  
Barbell Eyes. Yellow  
Tungsten Bead Yellow



# SCCC President Jamie Barber

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**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council**



# Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

I recently read a column by a friend of mine entitled "Readers Are Leaders." In the column he cites a statistic that got me thinking about one of our club's offerings that is near and dear to me: the Zoom Book Club.

The statistic my friend cited is this: the average American reads only one book a year. What's worse is that 60 percent of those who read one book only get through the first chapter. Imagine that. A further statistic shows that there is a high correlation between the level of a person's earnings and the number of books that he or she reads in a year. In contrast, the author cited another important (and optimistic) statistic: CEOs of Fortune 500 companies read an average of four to five books a month...and some of the most successful leaders throughout history were known to have read one book every single day! Now that's my kind of bibliophile.

Personally—and I admit to being someone who loves books and derives much of my learning from books—I believe that there are numerous advantages to reading books that go unreported and under appreciated, among them are the following\*:

- At their best, books allow us to learn life lessons without ever leaving our living room sofa
- While we may be physically present in a coffee shop, a library, or in our den, by reading, we are mentally and emotionally removed from those places and transported to locations that the author describes in vivid detail
- With films and videos, we are simply viewers of the actors and the story. With books, we become participants

- With a physical book, a tangible object to hold in our hands, we can mark our favorite pages with bits of paper and passages with a pen or highlighter for future reference
- The tactile feeling of a book—whether paperback or leather-bound—gives us a sense of pleasure, pride, and ownership
- Books improve our imagination, whereas film, photos, and YouTube videos (which all have their place) package the message with little need for imagination
- Books allow you to travel in time to the past or to the future; they give you deep insights into your humanity; they provide valuable advice; they whisk you off to distant lands or help you better understand your neighbors, friends, and family
- Books tend to give the reader a more “seasoned” perspective since they take time to write, edit, publish, and market—the very antithesis of the Twitter “Tweet,” the television soundbite, the impulsive text message, or the rash YouTube posting

\*I’m indebted to author Jeff Minick for much of the above.

Those advantages apply to any hobby, sport, business venture, interest, or skill. So let’s take fly fishing, for example.

During the course of our Zoom Book Club meetings, which began in May 2020, we have read numerous fly fishing books ranging from mysteries (yes, you read that correctly) to humor to reflections on great fly fishing adventures and destinations to how-to books by such renowned authors as Tom Rosenbauer, Joe Humphreys, Doug Swisher, Carl Richards, Dave Hughes, John Gierach, our own John Parmenter, Landon Mayor, and Kelly Galloup.

A partial list of the books we have read includes:

*Prospecting for Trout*

*The Orvis Guide to Small Stream Fly Fishing*

*Joe Humphreys’ Trout Tactics*

*Selective Trout*

*Sight Fishing for Trout*

*The Nail Knot*  
*Mastering the Spring Creek*  
*Dynamic Nymphing*  
*Standing in a River Waving a Stick*  
*Dana Fork Revisited*  
*Modern Streamers for Trophy Trout*

While reading and discussing the many books on our list, every one of the attendees has learned something new, learned a new aspect of something he or she thought they knew, had a few assumptions or dogmas upended, and been challenged to improve their reading of water; specific fishing techniques; hooking, playing, and releasing of fish; and overall casting efficiency. Also during the course of our book reading sessions, we have learned to appreciate different points of view, multiple perspectives, varied approaches to fly fishing, the rich and entertaining personalities of the authors, the humor inherent in trying to fool a fish with a fly, and the sheer joy of matching wits with a worthy adversary. We have learned lots and had a lot of laughs.

Another aspect of the Zoom Book Club sessions—and some of us would argue the most important and lasting aspect—is the camaraderie, deepening of friendships, and opportunities to connect on a regular basis with great fly fishers and club members. Especially during the COVID lockdowns, our Zoom meetings took the place of in-person meetings and on-the-water outings. It helped to counteract the feelings of isolation that affected so many of us for so many weeks. Now that the pandemic is over, the meetings simply augment our in-person monthly club meetings.

If you have considered joining our every-other-week Zoom Book Club, and you want to avoid being one of those Americans who read only one book per year, please email me or Jamie Barber or Connie Bullock so that we can send you a meeting link to join us for the next Tuesday night meeting. *Please note that we will be taking a break from the book club meetings between May 16 and August 15 so that the members can actually get out on the water and fish.*

See you at the next meeting—or on Zoom.

# Surf Outings and Long-Distance Releases

**John Parmenter**

Since the last issue of the newsletter I've had about a four or five outings in the surf. The month of May has brought an early "June gloom" along the coast with overcast skies lasting throughout the morning for most days. The upside to this, I've found, is the perch and corbina tend to stick around longer in the surf under overcast skies. So there's the silver lining...no pun intended.

These outings have been both super productive and super lousy. Two of the outings were at Silver Strand in Port Hueneme. For those who might want to try fishing in a different location, Silver Strand is at the furthest south end of Victoria Avenue just past the west side of the naval base. There are rest rooms and a good-sized parking lot there, and it's a short walk to the surf, too. When I go to this beach I like to fish close to the jetty which borders the south side of the entrance to Channel Islands Harbor. The structure is good here and on some outings, I've had good fishing.

Having just said that, I don't have great reports for the two recent trips I made here. I managed to land three perch on one outing with a frustrating number of long-distance releases in the mix. I was using a barbless hook which makes it more difficult to keep the fish buttoned on the hook in the choppy surf (at least that's the excuse I'm using).



As for my second visit to Silver Strand, I went fishless. I had a few grabs, but they were small and came unbuttoned as I was bringing them to hand. I didn't stay there too long on this trip, deciding to try my luck at Hollywood Beach, about 3 miles away. Unfortunately, that was disappointing as well. The surf was breaking rather high on the steep beach, so I stayed long enough to make a few half-hearted casts before deciding to go home and warm up around the coffee pot.

La Conchita is a further drive for me, but I had better fishing there on two other occasions. Again, the sky was overcast (love the gloom when I'm surf fishing) and the fish were more cooperative. On the first trip it took me a while to locate perch. I had to cover about 100 yards of beach with a whole lot of casting before finding perch that were schooled up. I took a dozen or more in a range of sizes, as well as the smallest shovel-nosed shark I have ever landed. And staying true to form, I had what I felt were too many long-distance releases as well.

On my last trip to La Conchita, it all came together and made for an



excellent day of fishing—if fish counts are how we measure our days. I landed two dozen or more perch, but none were in the large range. So I kept busy for about 3 hours in great conditions. The swells were relatively small and, yes, the morning was overcast. And although I had some long-distance releases, they were greatly reduced despite the fact that I was still using a barbless hook.

I attribute it to a new way of landing fish in the surf, at least it's a new technique for me. After giving it some thought between surf outings, I remembered fishing La Conchita with Roger Knudson and other Club members one morning, and I watched Roger land a fish he had hooked. Rather than stand in the surf



and play the fish to him for the release, instead he backed slowly out of the surf to the shoreline while keeping tension on his line. I thought it was odd at the time because it wasn't a large perch, but it stayed buttoned and he made a clean release of it. Anyway, on this last trip I tried this technique and found that I kept more fish on the hook doing it this way rather than staying grounded in the surf and playing the fish to me.

It's a small change, maybe, but I know I landed more fish as a result and had the added bonus of eliminating the frustration I felt with so many fish coming off. So my takeaway from the last surf outing is, yeah, maybe you can teach an old dog new tricks when it comes to fly fishing.



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Southwest Council



*Don't forget!! **Riptide Rendezvous**, a surf fishing tournament, is coming to a beach near you **starting May 27th and running for 4 weeks**. This is open to both fly and regular tackle anglers in separate divisions. You can fish any beach from Santa Barbara to the Mexican Border (as long as the beach is open to fishing!) and the winners will be determined by the longest fish in each species category, as well as the best one day catch total (all species combined).*

*To register, more information and the complete rules, go to*

<https://swcffi.org/riptide>

# Connie Bullock

## Membership Chair SWC Club Representative

The Southwest Council was able to pull off another amazing event on May 6 .. FLYBUY. The attendance was lower than expected and some speculated it was the time of year, but we had the FlyBuy last year on May 20 and had twice as many attendees. Could be people were busy, moved out of state, or any number of guesses. In any event, everyone had a great time with excellent fly tiers, garage sale, raffles, CfR, great food, and camaraderie. It's always fun to catch up with like-minded people we haven't seen in a while.

On another note, I would like to say that I am stepping down from the SWC as Volunteer Director. About two years ago a replacement was found. She was trained and ready to go but had too much going on with family and work, so I took the position back. But now I find that family commitments have become more important and I need more time to keep my health going in the right direction. With that, I could use help in recruiting a new person. Please let me know if anyone is interested. It's not a particularly difficult task as we have some great tools to reach out to the membership. Please let me know. Thank yo

Santa Clarita Casting Club is rapidly working on the Women's Intro to Fly Fishing to be held at Chesebrough Park, 23505 Sunset Hills Drive, Santa Clarita. The event will be help on June 3 and we have some wonderful instructors and volunteers to help with this fast-growing event. At the moment we have 32 women signed up with a cap of 42 as this is the first time we've been doing this type of event. Please let me know if there is any interest. Thanks.

As for upcoming flyfishing trips ... with the water flows in the Sierra being so high ... we've pushed the trip off until the first weekend in July, so stay tuned.

Connie Bullock  
Membership Chair  
[membershipsccc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipsccc@gmail.com)  
818-203-8922



## Women's Fly Fishing Class Saturday ~ June 3, 2023

Chesebrough Park, Santa Clarita

**\$25 FEE for classes, gear usage & lunch!**

*Santa Clarita Casting Club*

Event attendees will learn how to:  
Hold the fly rod & cast the line.  
Knot tying specific to the sport.  
Fly tying of artificial lures.  
Gear & gear terminology.  
Entomology.  
Stream safety & etiquette.  
Conservation



[www.scflyfishing.org](http://www.scflyfishing.org)

Join Us in Celebrating  
Our **45<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary  
at The Fly Shop<sup>®</sup>



FRIDAY,  
JUNE 9, 2023  
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

## 2023 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON!

**FORTY FIVE YEARS AGO** it was my pleasure to meet two enterprising young men with a dream, Mike Michalak and Brad Jackson. They knew what they wanted. They understood Redding was the prime spot to open a fly shop, with the intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 299 pointing the way to world-class fishing in every direction – north, south, east or west! I was in real estate at the time, and by the afternoon of the first day we met we found a small commercial spot behind a pizza parlor, and The Fly Shop<sup>®</sup> soon opened its doors. What started as a two-man operation has grown to what it is today, with the latest and greatest retail store, knowledgeable guide service, local private waters, and a world-class international travel service second to none!

None of this would have been possible without the support of all of you, our valued customers. We want to say thank you by having a free luncheon on June 9th, between 10 am and 3 pm.

With the heavy snowpack we have had this year, our local rivers look to be in fantastic shape by early June. Hat Creek, Fall River, Pit River, and the McCloud will be among the favorites. The Lower Sacramento River, one of our country's finest trout fisheries, will be ideal. Keep your fingers crossed for the Upper Sacramento.

We are grateful that several of our vendors will be here with the gear they sell, and happy to answer any questions you may have.

Our local fly club, Shasta Trinity Flyfishers, will serve the luncheon. Be sure to sign up for door prizes when you get here! If you have any questions or need further information, please call:

**Sandy Watts at 530-222-3555**  
or email: [sandy@theflyshop.com](mailto:sandy@theflyshop.com)

As part of our continuing efforts to support our fly clubs/conservation groups, we are again offering to donate a \$50 Gift Certificate to those California fly fishing clubs who mention the event in advance in their on-line or print newsletter. Just send a copy of the announcement to the event coordinator, Sandy Watts, here at The Fly Shop<sup>®</sup> or email: [sandy@theflyshop.com](mailto:sandy@theflyshop.com) and we'll get the certificate sent immediately.

*\* If your club has received a donation, we hope that will suffice in place of a \$50 Gift Card.*



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800-669-3474    530-222-3555    email: [sandy@theflyshop.com](mailto:sandy@theflyshop.com)    [www.theflyshop.com](http://www.theflyshop.com)

## 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.