

# July- 2022

## Volume 16, Issue 4



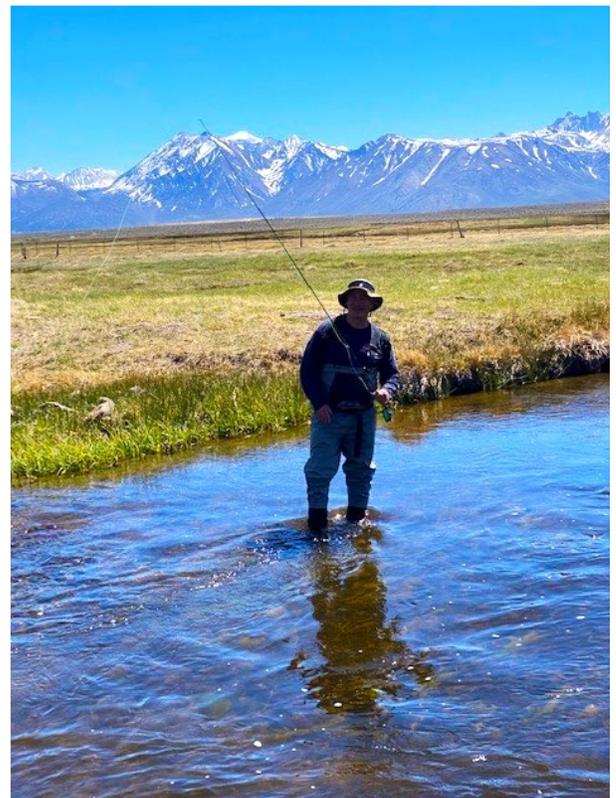
SANTA CLARITA  
CASTING CLUB  
FLY FISHING



# Casting Times

## Calendar of Events

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





# President Jamie Barber The Riffle

## Membership Matters by Bill Creitz

.01



## Gone Fishing 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

## Welcome to another installment of The Riffle.

Our Sunday casting clinics have been going along fairly well. We have a few new participants every once in a while. This week was a good week. A father and son dropped by. They had been fishing in Montana earlier in the year and had been skunked, so they came to us for help. Jon Simle coached the father (Roger), and I coached the son (Jack). They were improving on Sunday.

Michael Peratis and Ray took over to further their education. We should have a couple of new members, and the good news Jack is in high school. Young blood to add to the membership.

Meanwhile, our fly tying meetings are going well. I have now taught two flies to the group. I never thought I would be able to do that. I am very lucky to have Jon Simle, Michael Peratis and Barry Weber as mentors. We had to cancel this month's second fly tying session on Thursday. I was recovering from my hip replacement surgery. But we should be good to go again for the beginning of August. The club will be providing the supplies for our fly tiers. This should make it easier for more members to attend.



In other news, Friday surf fishing outings are having success. Barry Weber has been unavailable for a few weeks, but the attendance at La Conchita has been good. We have some great surf fishermen in the group, and the club members should take advantage of all the expertise that is available to them on the beach. Jon Simle has been taking up the slack on this front. We are looking into having a surf fishing tournament in the fall as well. More information on that will follow soon.

Once Joaquin "John" Malerba and I have recovered from our surgeries we will be heading up to the Eastern Sierras for a club trip. Stay tuned for more information on that.

On one last issue, we've decided to postpone the women's program until the spring of 2023. We felt we needed more time to get this organized, so we can have a program we can be proud of and one that will be continuous for the club.

### Tight Lines



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# Membership Matters

by Bill Creitz

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**“With the crazy state of the country—and the world—getting together with friends has taken on a greater importance than at any time previous...”**

**R**ecently, I joined fellow club members Ray Bianco and Jon Simle at the Valencia Meadows Park for a bit of casting practice and, afterward, lunch.

With my busy schedule and slightly obsessive time management regimen, I rarely (sad to admit) have the luxury of spontaneity. But on this day, after an invitation from Jon, I decided to pry the two-page Action Items list out of my hands, postponed an editing job, and indulged myself in spending time with two good friends whom I rarely get to just hang out with.

We cast a couple of nice bamboo rods and then compared them to an Orvis graphite rod that I had brought along. After watching two great casters (Ray and Jon) work their magic with the rods, and after discussing the merits of underlining and over-lining our rods, we called it a day on the practice field.

Later, I called Jon to express my appreciation for being invited to the spontaneous casting session. But that brief three-hour break in my otherwise hectic schedule got me thinking about the importance of community and friendships. No doubt that, to Ray and Jon, the casting session was a little thing—"all in a day's work" they may have thought. But to me, it was a big thing. With the crazy state of the country—and the world—getting together with friends has taken on a greater importance than at any time previous (and it's not just me; I hear that sentiment from many others I know). Every so often, we need a pleasant diversion from the events swirling around us.

Taken from the *Old French*, “communité” or “community” means “fellowship,” “affability,” or “an association of persons having common interests or occupations.” The Santa Clarita Casting Club, while our membership may only number in the fifties, is a community of sorts. Sure, we share a common interest in fly fishing and casting, but it goes deeper than that. We enjoy spending time together—whether on the water, at the park, at a monthly meeting, in a restaurant, or on Zoom—talking about and practicing our favorite sport and all its components.

As I have noted in previous columns, our fly tying classes, casting clinics, Zoom book club sessions, monthly meetings, rod building classes, Explorer Scouts program, freshwater and surf fishing outings, newsletter, breakfasts, and informal gatherings at the Fisherman’s Spot all serve to bring us together to “commune” with like-minded fly fishers in our area.

Having survived the worst of the COVID pandemic lockdowns, in retrospect, I believe that the isolation experience helped us to better appreciate friendships and the luxury, if you will, of being able to meet and interact together—a lesson that I hope we will not soon forget.

I read the following quote recently that speaks to the issue of the importance of friendships. It goes like this: “The kind of friends you want to be with are the people who will stimulate you to become the person you most want to be.” I like that.

For me, my friendships in the casting club have made me a better person. For one thing, I have learned to listen more, which reminds me of another quote: “I never learned anything while I was talking.” That’s wisdom. How about you? If you really think about it, I’ll wager that you too can point to one or more ways in which you have benefitted from being in the Santa Clarita Casting Club. And that’s a big thing.

I’ll see you at the next meeting.

# Gone Fishing!

## Lee Vining Creek Getaway John Parmenter

**I** was in Mammoth a few weeks ago to attend a wedding—it wasn't a fishing trip; although, I had to remind myself of this at times.

But as luck would have it, with the time planned for meeting with family and friends and other wedding activities, I was able to slip away for a few hours on two days to fish a couple of the smaller, local streams that I like. I wanted to head up to Yosemite, but I scratched that plan because of the time restraints and the difficulty I figured I'd have just getting into the park. Waiting in a long line at the entrance to Yosemite didn't appeal to me. I also considered fishing in the lakes and streams above Saddleback Lake in the Hoover Wilderness area, another one of my favorite spots to hike and fish in the Sierras. But again, that idea was shelved because of the crowded conditions I thought I'd encounter.

I settled (if that's the correct term) on fishing a small stream that I've fished many times in the past, Lee Vining Creek. This creek runs for about 16 miles with its headwaters flowing from Saddlebag Lake where it works its way through a high meadow section before entering Ellery Lake. Below Ellery much of it flows along the lower stretches of Tioga Pass where it can be spotted from above as you climb up towards the summit and Ellery Lake. There are access points along the creek in the upper section below Saddlebag Lake at the Sawmill Campground and Junction Campground areas as well as places to park and hike a short distance down to the creek. Along the lower section there are access points below Ellery Lake at Big Bend, Aspen, Moraine, and Lower Lee Vining Campgrounds. There are a few access roads closer to the town of Lee Vining to explore as well. Many of these spots will require some bushwhacking to get close to the water.

I won't share where I decided to fish; I'd like to keep that one close to my vest, but I suspect like my favorite section of water, many others will prove just as productive.

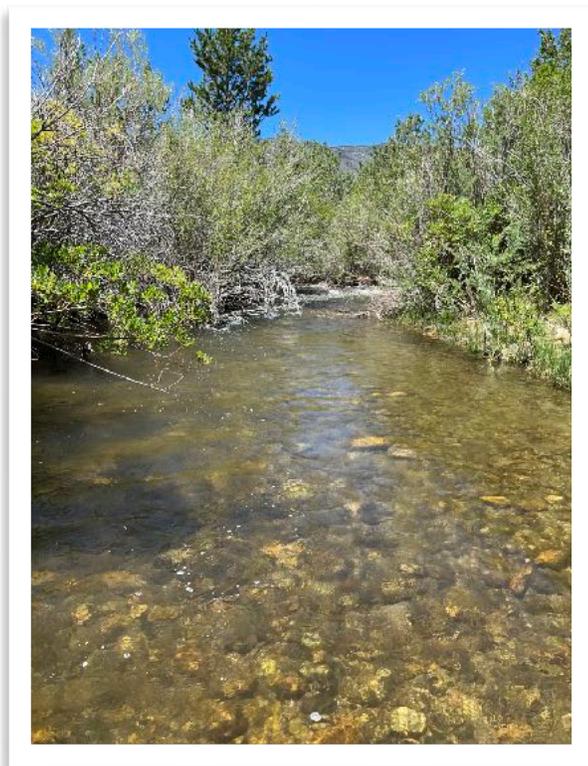
I didn't see another fisherman/woman on the day I was there. My guess is the rough terrain keeps most people away. But that's just another reason I enjoy this small stream; because it **does** afford some solitude. You won't find the number of folks you can expect to see on the more popular water in the area like Hot Creek or the Upper Owens.

The trade off to fishing this smaller creek is the size of the fish you can expect to catch. I caught mostly browns that day, averaging around 10" to 11". A fish going over 12" here is an old timer. True enough, their size can't compare to the trout you'll find on either of the more popular rivers I mentioned, but still they're wild, beautiful, and lots of fun on a smaller rod (I fished a 4 wt. bamboo rod that day).



Because of the brush and trees lining the banks, this is a stream where you must get in the water 90% of the time in order to make a decent cast. Despite the care I thought I'd taken on my backcasts while wading up the creek I still left an embarrassing number of flies in the branches. A day like the one I had makes for a good argument for tying your own flies.

I'm pretty much a dry fly fisherman these days, so I didn't try a nymph on the creek. In most spots the fish didn't need to come far to the surface to chase a dry; although, I kick myself now for not tying on a soft hackle fly just for the heck of it. In hindsight I think that would have produced well, too.



The flies I fished for the most part were a #16 parachute Adams, a parachute Purple Haze, and a tan caddis. All worked well enough, but I believe the Purple Haze won top honors for the day.

# Connie Bullock

Membership Chair  
SWC Club Representative

Membership is holding fast even though we haven't had many in-person meetings, so a big THANK YOU to our outstanding membership for their support.

The Casting Clinics continue to be well attended every other Sunday. Please check the website calendar for any changes or updates [www.scflyfishing.org](http://www.scflyfishing.org).

Unfortunately, the Saturday Clinic wasn't well attended, so we stopped doing them. If anyone wants to help chair a once-a-month Saturday Casting Clinic, please let us know.

We continue to work on the upcoming Women's Flyfishing program but it may need to be pushed a few months. Several of the people who will be coordinating this effort are already booked through the year, so look for more information on this Event in the coming months.

The next Club Membership Monthly Meeting is scheduled for 8/10/22 and we are narrowing in on an in-person meeting place, so stay tuned for that good news.



The next Southwest Council FlyBuy is already in the planning stages and is scheduled for May 6, 2023, at Long Beach Casting Club. There was talk about a surf outing, but that has not been confirmed yet.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trout Rodeo is looking like it will happen on March 4, 2023, at the Bishop Fairgrounds. As more information becomes available, I will keep you updated. Get these tentative dates on your calendar as you don't miss out of the fun.

The SWC has several Board positions coming open for the next calendar year ... anything from President to Membership Chair, so if you are interested in being on the SWC Board of Directors, please contact Steve Schalla at [fundraising@swcffi.org](mailto:fundraising@swcffi.org) or Leigh Ann Swanson at [president@swcffi.org](mailto:president@swcffi.org).

# CELINE'S Fly Gals Weekend 2022



SEPTEMBER  
17 & 18

RIVERNOOK  
CAMPGROUND  
KERNVILLE, CA

[LEARN MORE > CLICK HERE](#)

[REGISTER TODAY > CLICK HERE](#)



# FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL Southwest Council



## 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!**

**Here's the invite (below). Share with your members,**

## newsletter editors, web (pro-noun of your choice) & social media gurus!

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>

## 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:** 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.:** 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.