

SANTA LUCIA Fly Fishers



Tight Lines

Sept - 2019

<http://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com>

San Luis Obispo, CA

Mike Powers, Eric Tinglof, Editors

Board Member Message – Robert Hartzell

Tight Lines, the Santa Lucia Fly Fishers newsletter, has an introduction usually written by the club president. Rich Chubon, this year's president is dealing with health issues so board members are helping out. Club members can keep in touch with Rich by sending Rich and Judy an email.

The Sierra Nevada is one of our nearest and most scenic fishing areas. An eastern Sierra outing on the weekend of October 12 (with guide Pat Jaeger) is a great time for fall fishing and viewing spectacular fall colors. Information is in the newsletter.

The club website <https://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com> is a great location to get information about club activities and provides links to fly fishing resources. The members' only section provides information such as member contact info and club bylaws. Check it out.

In Memory of Chad Mc Partland – Bernard Pieters

It is with great sadness to announce that our good friend and club member lost his tough battle with colon cancer. He passed away a few weeks ago. Some of us have known him as friend and club member for over 2 decades. He served on the board and was president for several years. Most have met him as part of our IFFF casting instructors team in one of the many casting sessions over the years.

Chad says sometimes "The payback for me is to see the smile on their faces the moment when it all comes together and the caster feels it is finally clicking." We all are going to miss him dearly.

To send condolences:

Chad Mc Partland

1724 Gina Ct

Paso Robles CA 93446

SAVE THE DATES

Sep 5 Fly Tying; **NO Fly Tying this month.** Contact Jim Snodgrass
Sep 12:
5:00 Board meeting ... at IHOP SLO.
6:30 Monthly meeting
Oct 3 Fly Tying; Contact Jim Snodgrass; Odd Fellows Hall, SLO
Oct 10:
5:00 Board meeting ... at IHOP SLO.
6:30 Monthly meeting
Oct 12-13 Eastern Sierra outing



Special Rod Raffle – Lew Leichter

We have been having this raffle for a few months now. Only 8 tickets for each rod have been sold. So here's a special opportunity. We will sell tickets up until and at our September 12th meeting and then will draw the winning ticket at that time. If you can't make the meeting and want to get in the raffle mail Sheri a check for \$10 per ticket and indicate which rod you want the ticket to be for.

Mail to:

Sheri Bryant
936 Wigeon Way
Arroyo Grande CA 93420

Rod details:

- Rod #1 is a TFO 8' 2 weight 3 piece rod. This is a great little rod for fishing small creeks and streams.
- Rod #2 is a 3 piece 14 ft 9/10 weight . This rod is best used for fishing for salmon and steelhead on large rivers

Each rod will be raffled off separately.

We've also just been given an Orvis Rocky Mountain 2 piece 5 weight rod with tube & sock. You can buy it now for \$50 or submit a bid to me at lsleichter@hotmail.com. If not sold by the 9/12 meeting, the rod will go to highest bidder.



**There will be no fly tying session
on September 5, 2019!!**



The fly tyers are free to go fishing, read articles about fly fishing, or plan their next fishing trip because the September fly tying session is cancelled for September.

We will resume our sessions again on **Thursday, October 3rd** at 6:30, at the Odd Fellows Hall in San Luis Obispo.

Next SLFF Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 6:30pm

International House of Pancakes (IHoP), 212 Madonna Rd, SLO

Karissa Willits, Morro Bay National Estuary Program – Steelhead Trout Habitat Improvement in the Morro Bay Watershed

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program works to protect and restore the Morro Bay estuary and its watershed for people and wildlife. For over 20 years, the Estuary Program has focused on three programmatic areas to achieve its goals: monitoring and research, restoration and conservation, and education and outreach. The Estuary Program tracks long-term conditions in the estuary and watershed, protects land through restoration and conservation easements, and works with visitors and residents alike to share a message of stewardship.

Karissa Willits grew up in a water family in Humboldt County, California. If she wasn't surfing and playing at the beach, she was probably snorkeling after little trout in river. She was lucky enough to get an internship in high school working on a California Department of Fish and Wildlife rotary screw trap counting anadromous fish on one of the rivers she grew up on. That solidified her future in aquatic biology. Karissa went on to receive a degree in Marine Biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has bounced around the California coast since graduating for jobs including working at an aquarium on Catalina Island and studying native oysters in San Francisco Bay. She has been on the central coast for 8 years. She first moved here for the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Program. She went on to work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife assessing habitat for the Southern California steelhead trout in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. She has been a Monitoring Coordinator at the Morro Bay National Estuary Program for 5 years.

The Estuary Program is a great fit for her, because like steelhead, she reserves the right to go back and forth between freshwater and saltwater. Karissa coordinates the implementation of monitoring efforts throughout the bay and creeks. Projects include eelgrass monitoring and restoration, creek water quality monitoring and coordinating the group of dedicated volunteers who help collect valuable data.

Karissa's presentation will cover a habitat improvement project done in the Morro Bay watershed to benefit steelhead trout.

MANZANITA LAKE OUTING REPORT – Bernard Pieters

The Manzanita Lake outing began with a “bang!” as Terry Croxton and his wife Tina arrived Sunday afternoon during a passing thunderstorm. Christine and I came in a bit later and were lucky to stay dry while we set up our 5th wheel. Todd Tose' and his wife Martha were there from the day before and had been fishing from late morning to part of the afternoon. Todd's face was all smiles when he told me about their first day of fishing. The sky was heavily overcast with almost no wind and a pleasant 75 F. The fish were rising from the moment they unloaded their pontoon boats at midmorning until the time the rain started to pour down later in the afternoon. They tried some classic dry flies for a while and were ignored by the fish. They changed to a CDC dry fly and the bite was on. Without hesitation the trout now took their offerings time after time producing multiple times a bending rod and a screaming reel.

The following 3 days were almost the total opposite from the first day with hardly any dry-fly activity before 8 pm. We all did pretty well with some of us having 15 to 20 fish-contacts in a 4 to 5 hour fishing period. The name of the game was nymphing and/or stripping periodically a small wiggle tail.

Rick Chaval arrived Wednesday evening to try out Manzanita for the first time. After selecting the flies of the moment with him and some lake fishing -tips he was ready for the next day. It was a challenge to catch a fish during the day but it all came together (like Rick said) later in the low light evening by landing a few fish, and broke off on some violent strikes.

On the same day Steve Soenke and Carol Ray came to camp and prepared for the next fishing day. Carol was tying a beetle fly and caught a trout by trolling with it for her first time in Manzanita.

The Thursday was pretty windy that was making line control and strike detection more difficult with the result of a decline in catch rate. Friday morning Lew Leichter and Ron Salter knocked on the door of my RV to start their day on Manzanita. It was even more windy than the day before which forced us to fish in parts of the lake that were somewhat better protected. Ron's first time in Manzanita was not focused on catching fish, he was exploring the lake taking in the tremendous beauty of this special place. Lew put on a beetle fly and caught a few nice trout with it that were hard to bring to the net.

In the evening we got our club get together to end the outing and to make new plans to come back next year.

Historic Fishing Photograph – Robert Hartzell

A historic photo of young woman with a very nice steelhead.

<http://www.washingtonhistory.org/collections/item.aspx?irn=91848&record=10>

I think this is a remarkable photo for several reasons. The photo is from 1907 and is technically very good. The location is the Elwha River (Olympic Peninsula Washing) before the dams (which have since been removed). The young woman with her steelhead is a great subject.

Eastern Sierra outing the weekend of October 12 & 13 – Lew Leichter



In addition to the fishing the fall colors should be spectacular then.

For a change of pace we've asked Pat Jaeger our favorite eastside guide to do a Tenkara workshop Saturday morning. Class will be for 5 hours and cost will be \$350 for the group (max of 10). If you want to sign up let me know.

We'll plan to do some fishing together the rest of the weekend and all meet for dinner Saturday night. See below for more about Tenkara from Pat.

Tenkara fly fishing, Japanese, literally: "from heaven," or "from the skies."

Tenkara is an ancient Japanese form of fly fishing in which only a rod, line and fly are used – no reel. Tenkara has been practiced in the mountain streams of Japan for perhaps hundreds of years. Tenkara came to the United States in 2009 and quickly surged in popularity to the point that today the number of Tenkara anglers in the U.S. rivals the number in Japan.

A Tenkara rod is typically lightweight and relatively long (11 to 15-feet), with a very flexible tip section. The specialized and extremely lightweight Tenkara fly line (usually lighter than even a 000-weight conventional Western fly line) is tied to the tip of the rod and generally measures between one and two times the length of the rod. About four feet of tippet is tied to the end of the line.

A feather in hand

- Unbelievable accuracy
- Laser fast tip for quick strike
- Simple rigging
- Fast learning curve
- No brainer backcountry tool

As a novelty I bought a Tenkara rod; within a few casts I knew this was not a toy. I felt the same sensation as when I casted a Spey rod for Steelhead or used a screw driver instead of a butter knife. I have not put the rods down for years now. We have fished our way through the Eastern Sierra and Northern California with unbelievable success.

Please don't get me wrong, this will never replace my rod and reel. Nor I will never quit casting loops of fly line. Hunting trout 50 feet away will always be a never-ending

passion. I never tire of the sound of a big trout smoking fly line off my reel.

But, I will never quit looking for different ways to skin a cat.

The cross-over from intermediate to advanced is crazy rapid (five minutes). Learning curve for anglers who have never explored the craft is extremely user-friendly, finally, the rod is light enough for kids and small ladies.

I am happy to introduce you and yours to this craft. I am willing and able to do classes and open a day in my calendar. My classes are all “on the water “and consist of

- Simple rigging
- tight line nymphing
- Dry fly tactics (if we get targets)
- Traditional Kebari
- Hooking and landing fish

rod, line, flies, trout....just add water

SIMPLE FLY FISHING – LEW LEICHTER

I just started reading this book authored by Yvon Chouinard (Patagonia), Craig Matthews (Blue Ribbon Flies) and Mauro Mazzo. It got me thinking about my, and I imagine many, of our fly fishing experiences. I was taught to fly fish in the early 80's by a good friend and neighbor, Pat Trimm, in 3 simple lessons at his house. Lesson 1 was on the basics of a fly fishing outfit (rod, reel, leader and fly). I purchased one of these outfits from Pat for under \$100. Lesson 2 was casting to hula hoop rings in his front yard. Lesson 3 was tying a fly called a Patrick named after Pat's oldest son. The Patrick resembled a royal wolf. This was about the only fly Pat ever used and he caught a lot of fish with this one fly. Our “final exam” was a trip to the San Gabriel River in L.A. County which was heavily stocked. Had to cut work and go later in the week as the food wrappers and Pampers were washing downstream from the weekend crowds. Pat really knew how to read the water which was the key to his success. His teachings have stayed with me to this day.

Fast forward to today. I own about 10 rods, about the same number of reels and about 20 fly lines, plus just about every accessory and god knows how many flies, and yes I do own a Tenkara rod. This is more than most but way fewer than some. I can't calculate the “return on my investment”! What I do know for a fact is that my ROI (return on investment) sucks.

So recently I've been moving back to becoming a minimalist, thus my interest in this book and Tenkara. Russ Chatam wrote the introduction to the book. I quote “The more complex technology is allowed to intrude upon the fundamental simplicity of fishing, the further one becomes removed from its core value.” “Our sport has degenerated into an activity in which the accoutrements have become so complex and expensive that Joe Six-Pack can only press his nose to the fly shop window.” The reasons are numerous: first the damage we've done to the environment has ruined most of the fishing close to home so we have to travel, then tackle companies jumped in and did a total sales job on us convincing us that since our time on the water is so limited we need all the help we can get with products tailored to that days outing.

“At the end of the day fishing is a way of remaining a child. We can not truly do that, nor should we want to, but the illusion of it is one important key to our mental health”.

So keep it simple, enjoy it when and while you can and tight lines.

SLO COUNTY CREEKS TO COAST CLEANUP

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 21
9AM TO NOON

www.ECOSLO.org/creeks-to-coast



For more information, go to Creeks to Coast Cleanup.

PRIVATE CASTING LESSONS AVAILABLE

While our six IFFF certified casting instructors generously put on a series of free casting clinics for our club members each spring we wanted you to know they are available for private casting lessons throughout the year. If interested please contact them directly for additional information.

Bernard Pieters Arroyo Grande 489-3085 bpieters84@gmail.com

Eric Sherar Atascadero 423-0170 esherar1@gmail.com

Bob Hurd Arroyo Grande 550-9071 rbrthurd@gmail.com

Todd Tose Grover Beach 904-5288 trtflyfisher@charter.net

Chad McPartland Paso Robles 441-0744 chadmcpartland@gmail.com

Sally Stoner Halcyon 550-9509 fishsal44@gmail.com

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Santa Lucia



Fly Fishers

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

SLFF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

An individual regular membership is \$35.00 per year
For 12 months (January through December).
Enrollment after July 1st is \$20.00 for the remainder of the
year.

To join, please download the Membership Form from our
Website:

<http://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com/membership-3>

Send completed form with a check for dues to:
Santa Lucia Fly Fishers

**Come wet a line with us! Thank you for supporting those
who help support our chapter.**