

# SANTA LUCIA Fly Fishers



**Tight Lines** November, 2012

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<http://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com>

## President's Letter

*John Gierach: There are two time honored angling rules:*

*1) Aesthetics are a major part of fishing. That is, the peace, quiet and solitude are at least as important as the fish. Maybe even more so and, 2) When the trout are big enough, rule one can be temporarily suspended.*

**NEW MEMBERS:** Let's all welcome our newest members Don Lynge and Bob Wright. Don is new to fly fishing, Don showed up at the Kern outing and I had the pleasure of spending a few hours in the morning getting him started with a fly rod. No fish but his casting is pretty good. It's rewarding when we have an opportunity to share our sport and experience with others. Bob recently relocated from Texas.



**2012 DONATIONS APPROVED:** At the October board meeting we approved donations to Trout in the Classroom through Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (more below), the Land Conservancy of SLO and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. These groups all work locally on education and conservation issues that are worthy of our support.

**TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM:** We have been looking into how best to get our club involved in Trout in the Classroom (TiC). Awhile back we became aware of the fact that Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (CCSE) has had a very successful TiC program in place for quite some time so before proceeding we wanted to learn more about their program. To that end Doug Daniels, Art Chapman & I have had meetings with them.

Most fly fishing club sponsorships of TiC programs include the purchase of a tank setup (about \$1,000) and perhaps helping the teacher in some ways with the set up and releasing trout in local waters. CCSE has developed a full educational curriculum. Here is what they have to say about their program:

“Our Trout in the Classroom program goes above and beyond placing incubator aquariums in classes. We have a phenomenal educator on staff in Willie, and he works with each teacher to bring grade-level appropriate science lessons into their classrooms. This includes:

- 3 In-Class presentations
- 1 Field Trip with hands-on science activities

*(continued next page...)*

- One batch of trout eggs (FYI triploid trout eggs are used and CCSE has approval to release in Lopez and Santa Margarita.)
- Egg delivery
- Permits
- Training for the teachers on both tank care and curriculum
- Curriculum Binder
- Access to our lending library full of equipment and an online database of lesson plans
- 3 months use of an incubator aquarium
- Replacement and maintenance supplies for the aquarium”

As you can see this is quite a bit more than what the normal TiC program includes and we are impressed. CCSE has about 20 tank setups and cover SLO and Northern SB counties. They do both a fall and a spring program. The cost of the program per school site is \$1,500 (primarily CCSE staff). Historically they received most of their funding from DFG educational grants which funding will cease due to budget cut backs.

Doug and the folks from CCSE will be at our November meeting. At this time with your support we could begin to partner with CCSE in the following areas:

- As noted above we will make donations to help sponsor TiC programs at local schools that want it but can't afford it.
- We hope some of you will want to provide volunteer support where we can. This would reduce the time CCSE staff would spend per program therefore bringing down the \$1,500 current cost. We will have a volunteer training session in the near future.

(Note: CCSE has more than enough tank setups to service local schools so the purchase of additional setups at \$1,000 each does not seem to be a good use of our limited funds.)

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM AND HOW YOU CAN HELP.

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** Judy & Rich Chubon will share with us info on their trip last summer to the south which of course includes Rich's fishing experience. The folks from Central Coast Salmon Enhancement will be there to talk about their organization and Trout in the Classroom.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

- Nov 1st: Fly tying 6:30PM SLO Odd Fellows Hall. Paul Crafts will be tying his Golden Rib Hare's Ear.
- Nov 8th: Board of Directors meeting 5PM at Marriott. 6:30 General meeting at Margie's featuring Rich Chubon & Trout in the Classroom.
- Nov 9th-11th: O'Neil Forebay outing. Contact Art Chapman or Mark Shelton.
- Nov 17th: Beginners fly fishing class. Contact David Holmes or Jim Crescenzi.
- Nov 22nd: HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!
- Sept 20-22nd, 2013 SWCFFF Faire in Mammoth

*More club news* Mark Shelton's Year-End Slideshow of members' fishing pics will be presented at the December 13th SLFF Meeting. Also, our December meeting will be our annual meeting where we will elect board members and officers and review financials per our bylaws.

# **NEXT SLFF MEETING**

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2012 AT 6:30PM**

### **MARGIE'S DINER, 1575 CALLE JOAQUIN, SLO**

#### **Program 1: A Tale of Two Cities, Redfish, Bluefish, and More**

Rich Chubon will present a program on his (and Judy's) recent trip to Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia. He calls his program a "Tale of Two Cities, Redfish, Bluefish and More", because the program includes a small taste of the history and culture of these two beautiful southern cities, the scenic offerings of coastal South Carolina, and of course their fly fishing experience on Charleston Bay.



For the salt water fly fisher, Charleston Bay offers some exceptional fly fishing opportunities. The Ashley, Cooper and Wando Rivers flow into Charleston Bay creating an inner bay estuary habitat made up of salt marsh and grass flats. At any given time of year, a variety of salt water game fish can be found in the inner bay and its estuaries. These game fish include Sea Trout, Flounder, Striped Bass, and Redfish, and can be taken on a fly. However, it's the exceptional fly fishing opportunities for Redfish which has made Charleston Bay one of the top 5 destinations for fly fishers in pursuit of these spotted-tailed fish.

Judy and Rich spent a full day fly fishing on the bay with Captain Chris Chavez. Captain Chavez is a Charleston native who has fished the Charleston waters for more than 25 years. He offered a fishing experience where they could catch Redfish, Bluefish, Spanish Mackerel, and Sea Trout. Rich's talk will cover the equipment, strategy, and technique that they used while fishing the both the inner and outer areas of Charleston bay.

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#### **Program 2: Willie Richerson of Central Coast Salmon Enhancement**



Central Coast Salmon Enhancement and SLFF are excited to embark on a partnership to expand Trout In the Classroom (TiC) on the Central Coast. Starting in the spring of 2013 SLFF has agreed to sponsor three TiC programs in local schools to be selected. Teachers and students alike are all thrilled. Eggs will arrive mid-February in three classrooms. Teachers are provided all the equipment and training to raise rainbow trout from eggs to fry with their students. The CCSE program began as a DFG grant over 8 years ago and since then has reached over 100 classrooms from Orcutt to San Miguel.

Curriculum goes far beyond the life cycle of the fish to include lessons on stream insects, topography and watershed dynamics, to name a few. A favorite is the insect program where students actually perform a bio assessment of a local stream through identification of macro invertebrates. Each of the three in-class units taught by a trained educator includes pre/post activities, expanding the curriculum beyond science into math and language arts. With the new partnership we hope to have SLFF members come out and help with presentations, deliver some trout eggs, and even teach some fly tying and casting clinics at our release field trips at Lopez Lake in May. After all one of the best ways to get students excited about the natural world is through the joy of fishing. Willie will be at the November 8th Meeting to present more detail regarding this amazing program, including more ways for members to get involved.

## Upcoming Beginning Fly Fishing Class begins Nov. 17

David Holmes, Bernard Pieters, and Jim Crescenzi have been busy planning for and organizing a beginner's fly fishing class. It will be composed of three elements:

- "The Fundamentals of Fly Fishing - Equipment Selection, Essential Knots, and General Pointers",
- "About Fishing Flies - A greater variety than one might expect - mayflies, caddis, bugs, grasshoppers, worms, bait fish, crawdads, to name a few feather & fur lures!"
- Finally and perhaps most importantly: "Hands-On Instruction in Fly Casting".

The first class is scheduled for Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 4:30 PM at David Holmes' house at 63 Benton Way in SLO. David's cell is 550-9323 if you get lost! Please let Jim Crescenzi know ([jcrescenzi@gmail.com](mailto:jcrescenzi@gmail.com)) if you would like to attend the class.

All sessions will be designed to help the newcomer have a successful introduction to his or her fly fishing experience. We have preliminary outlines of our planned presentations, but intend to remain flexible as we receive feedback from our membership as to what is most needed. We will combine the "Fundamentals" and "About Flies" into one meeting, and possibly have two or three fly casting lessons on Saturday mornings. --David Holmes

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### MARK PINTO'S GUIDE TRIP OF THE MONTH



Mark has generously offered to donate a discounted guide trip each month to Santa Lucia Fly Fishers. This month Mark is offering two consecutive days of striper fishing in the Delta for two. The trip must be taken between now and December 31st. Regularly \$425 per day (\$850) the trip is yours for \$700. To purchase this trip be the first to contact me and send me a check for \$50 made out to the club. I'll notify Mark you are the winner. For more info Visit Mark's website at [www.pintoshomewaters.com](http://www.pintoshomewaters.com). -- Lew Leichter

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## FLY TYING

### Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear - An Essential Trout Pattern for the November Tying Session

The Santa Lucia Fly Fishers' fly tyers will be led by Paul Crafts on Thursday, Nov. 1st (6:30 PM at the SLO Odd Fellows Hall) in tying the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear, an old standby for nymphing for trout. The session will include tying instructions by Paul Crafts. In particular, Paul will demonstrate how one starts with a hare's "mask" and produces the dubbing material central to this fly.

According to Jim Schollmeyer & Ted Leeson, Flies for Western Super Hatches: "Universally regarded as one of the preeminent all-purpose flies, the Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear is, in fact, a highly credible imitation of the Small Western Green Drake nymph. The squat, blocky body and the rough, spiky dubbing suggests the general profile and pronounced legs of the natural insect."

(Photo courtesy [www.charliesflybox.com](http://www.charliesflybox.com))



The SLFF tyers had a productive October session tying David Holmes' "Jig Flies" (seven tyers participated), which David swears will make us all productive Bass and Bluegill fisherman in local lakes. Our tyers will be led in December by Larry Sederberg in tying the Comparadun, another very productive trout fly. -Jim Crescenzi

# Upcoming Outings

O'Neil Forebay Striped Bass Outing **November 9-11**

Leaders: Art Chapman (927-9660) and Lew Leichter (934-2476)

Where: Just off I-5 near Santa Nella and Los Banos. Stay in a nearby motel (Los Banos Motel 6 is a good choice) or a campground at the lake (Google Ca. State Parks' San Luis Reservoir site for more information). Day use permit cost was \$9 per car last year. Day use hours are from sunrise to 10pm. Boating hours are from sunrise to sunset.

We will meet for dinner Friday night at 5pm at **Wool Growers Restaurant**, 609 H St., Los Banos, CA 93635, (209) 826-4593. Food is served family style. Bring a hearty appetite.



San Luis Reservoir sits just off I-5 near Los Banos. It produces electricity during the day by pushing water through generators and down into a smaller reservoir below the dam called O'Neil Forebay. At night, when they have excess power, they pump the water back up to the big reservoir as potential energy for the next day. Although smaller, I wouldn't call O'Neil little. It's a pretty formidable body of water especially for a float tuber, over 2000 surface acres. And if the wind blows, as it does often, it can be downright dangerous. But, it's worth it. It's got striped bass, some fairly large. Running from the dam into the west side of O'Neil is an old creek bed and this is where the bigger strippers hang out. Most of O'Neil is fairly shallow but the creek bed is about 30-50 feet deep, so you need a sinking line and a 7 or 8 weight rod, because you could hook into a 10 pounder. In shallower waters you can, and probably should, use floating lines. Also, it is possible to fish with waders from shore in several areas, depending on the water level. Last year we fished mostly from shore on the west side near the Highway 152 Bridge. But, the water level was quite low and there is no way to predict the water level from year to year.

Six different fly-fishing line-class world records for striped bass have been set at San Luis Reservoir and neighboring O'Neill Forebay. These are highlighted by a 54-pound, 8-ounce striped bass caught on 16-pound tippet by Al Whitehurst, who owns four of the records. This is proof that sometimes bigger is not better. O'Neill Forebay is the little brother of the adjacent and giant San Luis Reservoir. But even though it's by far the smaller of the pair, the opportunities for boating and water sports are far more attractive here. O'Neill Forebay covers 2,000 surface acres with 14 miles of shoreline. Whereas the main reservoir is used primarily for fishing, O'Neill Forebay caters to swimmers, water-skiers, and people using personal watercraft. If you time it right, you can catch striped bass, large in both in size and numbers. The lake also has largemouth bass and crappie. There are many excellent ways to catch those striped bass. Guides Dan Blanton and Dave Sellers have developed outstanding fly-fishing methods here, casting streamers that simulate small baitfish. This lake is often best in the fall, starting usually in late October, when the first cool weather of the year brings the fish to the surface. This is often when the biggest fish of the year are caught. Kaweah Flyfishers recommend minnow patterns and buggers fished sub-surface. Also, poppers, divers & gurglers may work this time of year. Your best bet is to use a lightly weighted minnow pattern on an intermediate slow sink line which can be fished like a floating fly when necessary. -Art Chapman

# Past Outing Reports

## Channel Islands Trips a Consistent Success *by Andy Malavos*

Skipper John Fuqua of the Sea Jay has consistently provided some great fishing this year for members of both the Saltwater Flyrodders (Montrose), and the Santa Lucia Fly Fishers (San Luis Obispo). Half the fun has been tying up the anticipated "Hot Fly" to knock over the voracious Calico, Sugar And "Johnny Bass" that roam off the Islands. Plus, don't forget those occasional visitors: the White Sea Bass, Bonita and Barracuda, that can really bend your rods. This year Mike Forrest, President of the SWFR was generous enough to circulate his Clouser and baitfish fly patterns to both clubs. These patterns had been very successful off Cedros Island in Baja for very large Calico Bass.



On Sept 11, SLFF members Rich Chubon, Gaye Holman, Mike Kohle, Mike Forrest Peter Van Hest, and Myself were treated to a very hot bite of Bass off of Santa Cruz Island. The ocean was calm and the sky was overcast, but very quickly Gaye Holman caught her first fish in the ocean on a flyrod! Our heavy sinking lines caught fish at 10-40 feet down on almost every cast. Mike's flies worked, as did orange, green and white flies. Big fish honors went to Peter Van Hest with a 3 lb. Calico. Overall we caught and released over 100 Bass in the hard-fighting 1-3 lb. bracket.

On Sept 12, Mike Forrest, Peter Van Hest and Myself were joined by Stanley Levine, Mike Richardson and Irvin Goldblum for the SWFR trip aboard the SEA JAY. Although the ocean was a little turbulent, Skipper John took us back to the north side of Santa Cruz Island. In this area on Sept 9th, the Skipper had found a school of White Sea Bass for SWFR members Dan Barber, Rocky Tussey and Peter Van Hest who landed fish. Dan had caught a 23 pounder! Again the Skipper found fish, but the bumpy water made it too hard to hold the SEA JAY on the exact location. We contented ourselves by catching a wide variety of Bass and a few Rockfish. Toward the end of the trip I landed a 4 1/2 pd. Johnny Bass aka Olive Rock Cod. The smiling face in the back of the picture (r) is Peter Van Hest. The fish was caught on a black/red skull fly I had tied from a Bob Marriot kit. Totals for the trip were 70 fish caught.



On October 11, the SEA JAY trip was sponsored by the Fisherman's Spot fly shop of Van Nuys. A mixture of members from both clubs and non-affiliated fly casters rounded out the excursion. They were Peter V, Myself, Mike F, Jack Davis, Adrian Uribe, and Tom Camp. The weather was heavy dark clouds. We knew this would be a short trip! Early on, Skipper John located a heavy concentration of large Calicos. Jack Davis, positioned in the center of the stern, caught 5 big fish in the 4-5 lb. group in less than 30 minutes. Jack used a store bought olive/off-white Clouser fly size 1/0. Peter did very well, and Mike ran forward and landed several big fish off the Bow. It was very furious fishing, made more fun by a continuous bite of nice-sized mackerel that bent your rod and ran in big circles. The clouds found us and the hard rain started. We had to go below deck and snooze as the Skipper drove us back to Oxnard. We caught at least 50 fish but it seemed like a lot more. Great trips. I am waiting for the next one.

# Past Outing Reports

## Motorcycle Flyfishing Trip Report *by Nick Boche*



I bought a BMW F650 motorcycle a year and a half ago. It's a dual sport which means it's good for on and off road riding, and it came with all the luggage boxes. My first thought, of course, was that it would be perfect for weekend flyfishing trips. Last weekend, the stars finally aligned, I didn't have any other obligations, and I was able to make that trip. The Kern River seemed like an ideal destination. It's only 3 ½ hours away, and only about ten miles of the trip was on freeways. Highway 58 and highway 178 are both great motorcycling roads.

I was able to fit my backpacking tent, sleeping bag and pad in one side box. The other side box easily held my fishing gear, and water bottles. The top box had room for plenty of clothes for a overnight trip, and I put my duffle bag with waders and boots on the seat behind me. My fly rod tube clamped nicely behind the right side box. I didn't take any cooking gear since The Brewery in Kernville does a fine job of that, but it was nice to see that I did have enough room in the boxes for my backpacking stove.



The fishing was great. In half a day, I caught 6 rainbows in the 10 to 13 inch range. I think simple math shows that counts as a 12 fish day, but even without that extrapolation, it was good fishing. The winning flies were #10 Kern Candy, and #12 copper Johns. I fished one at a time with no second or third flies, no weights,

no bobbers, no indicators, etc.



The Kernville night life was fun as usual. One of the bars had a good country band, and the other one had a great blues band. The usual "colorful" locals were all in attendance.



# SANTA LUCIA *Fly Fishers*



## 2012 Officers, Directors, & Committees

### Officers

*President* Lew Leichter  
*Vice President* Art Chapman  
*Secretary* Sheri Bryant  
*Treasurer* Nick Boche

### Directors

Bernard Pieters, Craig Kincaid,  
 Jim Crescenzi, Ted Pope,  
 Ron Bryant, Mark Shelton,  
 Andy Harrison

### Committees

<i>Conservation</i>	Ron Bryant, Doug Daniels	<i>Education</i>	David Holmes
<i>Membership</i>	Mark Shelton	<i>Rod Building</i>	Mike Powers, Rich Chubon
<i>Newsletter</i>	Andy Harrison, Ted Pope	<i>Casting</i>	Bernard Pieters, Eric Sherar
<i>Website</i>	Craig Kincaid	<i>Fly Tying</i>	Jim Crescenzi, Rich Chubon
<i>Programs</i>	Rich Chubon, Mark Shelton	<i>Banquet &amp; BBQ</i>	Sheri & Ron Bryant
<i>Outings, Salt Water</i>	Andy Malavos, Mike Hildenbrand	<i>Raffle</i>	David Holmes, Lew Leichter
<i>Outings, Fresh Water</i>	Alex Beattie, Rich Chubon	<i>Library</i>	Steve Soenke
<i>SWCFFF Coordinator</i>	Lew Leichter		

To join SLFF, please visit <http://santaluciaflyfishers.com/membership.htm>

## Santa Lucia



*Fly Fishers*

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