

SANTA LUCIA Fly Fishers



Tight Lines December, 2013

Andy Harrison, Editor (aharrison99@att.net)

<http://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com>

President's Letter

John Gierach: *In fact, that seems to be where half the flies in my boxes come from in the first place. They represent something that happened once, and so will surely happen again eventually, given enough time. In that way, my fly selection makes sense in the same way my life does, that is, only to me.*

From our family to yours, Sylvia and I send our best wishes for a great holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

2014 DUES RENEWAL: PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND PAY YOUR \$35 DUES. We will not require a renewal application unless your info has changed. Mail your payment to SLFF P O BOX 166 SLO CA 93406 or bring to a meeting.

NEW MEMBERS: We have a new member who joined at the November meeting, Barbara Saffer. Let's all make her feel welcome. We look forward to getting to know you and spending time on the water with you in the near future.

SLFF CONTRIBUTIONS: At the November meeting the board approved the following donations:

Save Bristol Bay \$200.

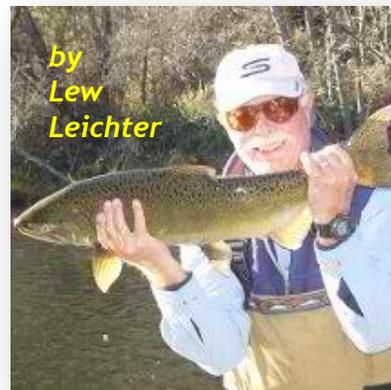
Trout in the Classroom \$750 (plus \$250 from SWCFFF)

Morro Bay National Estuary Program \$500 for monitoring the health of the bay
SLO Land Conservancy \$300 for monitoring the arundo eradication on SLO Creek.

Trout Unlimited \$200 for the Los Padres Wilderness Area Designation .
(This includes 350,000 acres in the forest and designating 152 miles of streams, including the Santa Ynez and Sespe as wild and scenic.)

With your support, including these we have been able to donate over \$2,500 to conservation efforts this year.

DECEMBER MEETING: Per the bylaws the December meeting will be our annual meeting. We will select a board and the board will elect officers for 2014; we will also review the club's finances. Andy Harrison and Nick Boche will not be continuing as board members. Judy Chubon and Tom Nickelson will be the new board members. Thanks to Andy & Nick for all they have done and



welcome to Judy and Tom. **THIS WILL ALSO BE OUR MEMBERS SLIDE SHOW HOSTED BY MARK SHELTON. SEND HIM YOUR PICS IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY.**

HAL JANSSEN'S BOOK: See the ad on page 3. If you're interested or know someone who is interested in still water trout fishing you really want to have this book. Hal will donate \$10 from each book sold to our club. This will make a great Christmas gift.

SAVE THE DATES:

Dec 7th: surf perch outing to Santa Claus Lane in Carpentaria. Meet at 6AM at the Albertson's in Orcutt for ride sharing. Contact me with questions or if you're planning to join us.

Dec 12th: 5PM board meeting at Margie's, 6:30 general meeting at Margie's.

Dec 19th-20th: King's River outing below Pine Flat Reservoir. Contact Alex Beattie.

Jan 18th: SWCFFF club management day in Riverside. For all board and committee members this is an informative get together with the 24 other clubs and includes a mandatory stop at the Bass Pro shop in Rancho Cucamonga on the way home. If interested in attending let me know.

**Mar 22nd: ANNUAL CLUB BANQUET LUNCHEON AT MADONNA INN
WITH GUY JEANS AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER.**

Next SLFF Meeting

Next SLFF Meeting

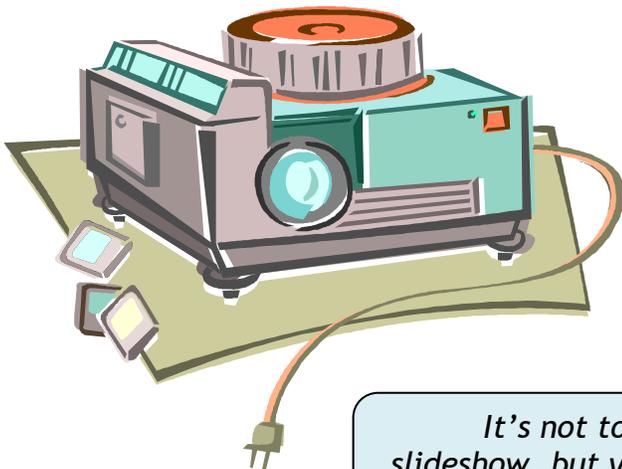
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2013 AT 6:30PM

MARGIE'S DINER, 1575 CALLE JOAQUIN, SLO

AGENDA: ANNUAL MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

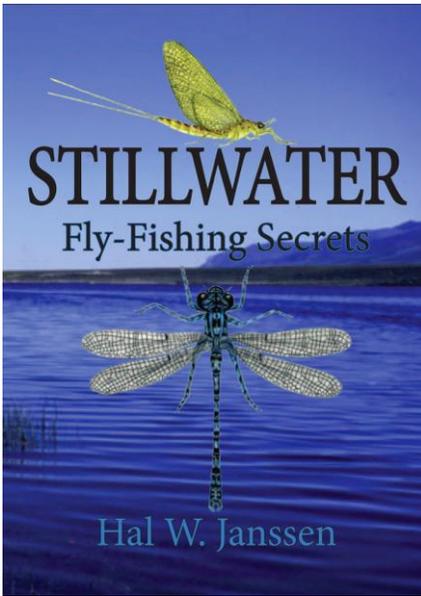
CLUB FINANCIAL REVIEW



**PLUS:
MARK SHELTON'S
ANNUAL SLIDESHOW OF
MEMBERS' FISHING PICS.
DON'T MISS IT!**

*It's not too late to add your pics to the
slideshow, but you need to hurry! Deadline is 12/2!
Send them to Mark Shelton at mshelton@calpoly.edu*

Hal Janssen's Stillwater Fly-Fishing Secrets



288 pages of never before published facts, tips and techniques. Whether you are a novice or an expert you will be amazed by Hal's insights, observations and his simple methods for catching trout. Fly-Fishing Hall of Famer Hal Janssen shares his 60+ years of on-the-water experience, and reveals his secrets for success. Including 48 fly patterns and diagrams illustrated in watercolor and much more.

Purchase a book and support our club

For every book purchase by our club members, Hal is pleased to give back \$10.00 in proceeds to San Lucia Fly Fishers. Books must be purchased directly from Hal Janssen. Visit www.haljanssen.net or email to perfectcast@att.net or mail a check for \$59.75 (\$49.99 +\$9.75 to cover tax and shipping) to: Hal Janssen, P.O. Box 272, Forest Ranch, CA 95942

Please mention you are a SLFF member.

50 BEST TAILWATERS TO FLY FISH BOOK BY TERRY AND WENDY GUNN

Terry and Wendy Gunn, of Lees Ferry Anglers fame, have compiled what must be considered the bible of "where to go and how to do it" in our sport: *50 Best Tailwaters to Fly Fish*. The 272-page, 4-color softcover book compiled by the Gunns is the work of the guides and outfitters with "boots in the water" on each of the respective tailwaters, assisted by Southwest Council IFFF VP of Communications, Bennett Mintz, who "organized and edited" the work. "We named it *50 Best Tailwaters to Fly Fish*, but after compiling everything, there was just no way to eliminate any, so we wound up with 56 chapters on individual rivers throughout the United States and Canada," said Mintz.

According to the Gunns, the book's chapters are divided first by region, and then from south to north within each region to accommodate travel and road trips. In addition to detailed contour maps of each tailwater, which include local roads and river access points, there are suggestions for gear, regulations, fly patterns, seasonal hatches, and wading areas. The book also includes contact information for local fly shops, outfitters, and lodges, along with suggested best bars, restaurants, hotels, campgrounds, and emergency medical services.

"We feel fortunate that so many good friends and well-known outfitters - folks like Pat Dorsey, Craig Mathews, John & Amy Hazel, Tim Linehan, Mike Mercer, Mike Lawson, Lefty, and so many others - contributed to the book. We all agreed that there is no other one like it in the field, which made it an even greater responsibility to take on. And we couldn't be happier with the final product!" said Wendy Gunn.

50 Best Tailwaters to Fly Fish is priced at \$34.95 and available from flyfishing shops, book dealers, Amazon.com or directly from the publisher, Stonefly Press (Go to <http://stoneflypress.com> for more detail.)



Trout Love Ants! *by Jim Crescenzi*

The next fly tying session will be Thursday, December 5th, at 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Odd Fellows Hall in San Luis Obispo. The pattern will be Cutter's Perfect Ant, led by Paul Crafts. Paul recommends the following website for those of you who want a head start: <http://stevenojai.tripod.com/instperfectant.htm>. Of course, the real scoop on this pattern can be found at Ralph Cutter's website: http://www.flyline.com/fly_patterns/dry_flies/perfect_ant/. Black 6/0 thread is recommended (all other materials will be provided).

I had an "ant experience" last July in Montana. While fishing the Missouri River just below Craig, MT (a beautiful tail-water fishery), the guide had us try a brown ant pattern similar to Cutter's Perfect Ant. I have no idea whether the big brown trout thought it was an ant or a termite, or whatever, but they loved the little bugger. An online search revealed other pattern descriptions (Bloom's Parachute Flying Ant, Mart's Parachute Ant, Two Tone CDC Ant, etc.) that are quite similar to Cutter's Perfect Ant, and all seem to present a degree of realism. There is an informative article on ant patterns: "Tying Better Ant Patterns" by Jeff Morgan (http://www.west-fly-fishing.com/feature-article/0107/feature_586.php) that provides additional insight into one's choice of patterns and their use. Hopefully all of this "ant info" will motivate you to participate in the Dec. 5th tying session.

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Tom Maumoynier

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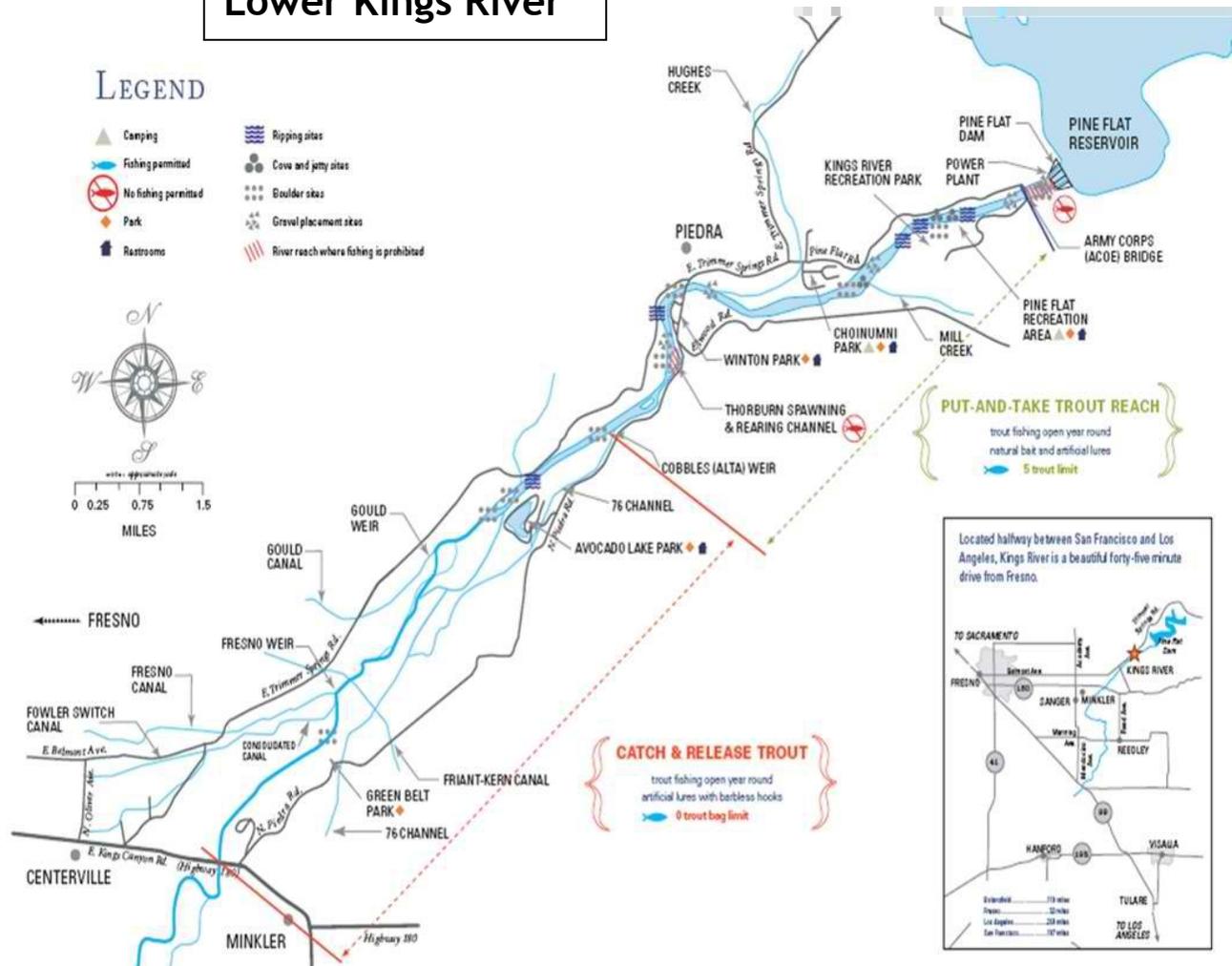
Upcoming Outings

LOWER KINGS RIVER BELOW PINE FLAT DAM Dec. 19-20

Outing Leader: Alex Beattie

The Kings River below Pine Flat Dam is a tail water river that fishes very well during the winter. There is catch and release barbless section for about two miles below Cobbles Weir (see map) that is stocked weekly with 20"+ Rainbows beginning in December and lasting thru February. At this time of year the flow will be about 100-200 cfs and can be waded or can be fished from the bank. If you are going to wade, I would suggest studded boots and a wading staff. I would come prepared with a range of standard nymphs in the 14-18 size, a selection of 16-20 midges and perhaps a few egg patterns. I prefer to swing a streamer with a soft hackle or wet fly behind it and will use a 6wt. rod. These are big fish. I saw a 24" Rainbow caught last year and 9-12 lb fish were reported being caught. This can be done as an up and back trip since it is about 3 hrs from SLO. The day is short at this time of year so I will be staying in a fairly cheap motel about 20 minutes from the river. The trip only has room for 8 persons so call me @ 772-5694 if you are interested. Ride sharing is encouraged and I will attempt to facilitate. Tule fog and/or rain reschedules trip.

Lower Kings River



PAST OUTING REPORT: Klamath River Steelhead *by Lew Leichter*

For a bunch of Guys that are used to Motel 6 & Denny's this outing was something else! Hosted by Craig Nielsen of Shasta Trout (shastatroutrout.com) eight of us were treated to three days of great steelhead fishing on the Klamath. Better yet were the accommodations & superb meals at ScottRiverLodge (scottriverlodge.com).



Rather than bore you with lots of pictures of us with our fish, we'll show you a couple shots of the happy campers enjoying dinner and enjoying libations around the fire-place instead!



Have you ever considered the dangers of our sport? *(Courtesy of Lew Leichter)*

Fly-fishing is fraught with them, peril is everywhere. Start with the drive and fighting cellphone-driving fools, then following vague directions with sudden turns on gravel roads.

Assuming you make it in one piece, there are those steep drop-offs at the shoulder where you parked as you bushwhack toward the sound of water. Watch that rod! Don't snag those waders! Watch out for that suspicious bull eyeing you across his meadow! Snakes can pose a threat as can low tree limbs, poison oak, slippery cow pies, biting insects, dead fall and you haven't even made the water yet.

Have you applied sunscreen and does that hat sufficiently cover your ears? Hope you took the right path. Are you trespassing? Are you lost? Don't slip as you grab a bush limb to slide down the last 4 feet to the river bank.

Ahhh, you are here but, the dangers increase. Where there is water one can drown. Be careful stepping on mossy rocks and those deep crevices hidden below the surface are ankle twisters. Is this tail water starting to rise? Be careful with that split shot, many a tooth has been chipped. And, it is good you removed that barb, think of it as self-protection. Flailing that sharp hook of metal is meant for the fish I know but, that is another good reason to wear a hat. This could be a brutish river you are in. That somber white cross on the bank with a wicker creel hanging from it is suspicious. Is that a deep hole? Tighten that chest belt on your waders. Can I get to that spot in this fast moving water? Where is my stick?

Does it feel at times that you are indeed the prey? That is because that trout is luring you deeper, into that treacherous current. Trout do have their ways, so beware. Are you getting hot yet? Better hydrate, oh, but now where to pee. And that wind is beginning to pick up and I must be careful reaching for that bush that has my fly. Now I am cold and the clouds are moving in. What are the first signs of hyperthermia?

Phewww. So, even though fly-fishing is thought of as a serene sport, we know better. We know the real pluck it takes to go out there and risk oneself with fish and the dangers intricately entwined. You are not merely a fisher you are person of courage and daring. So, when you get back home, look in that mirror again and smile.

SANTA LUCIA *Fly Fishers*



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