

### **TIGHT LINES**

info@santaluciaflyfishers.com | San Luis Obispo County |Editors: Donna & John Sims

### Save-the-Dates

- April 11 SLFF Club Meeting
- May 9 SLFF Club Meeting
- **September 7** Fall Social
- June 23-29 Manzanita Lake Outing

### **Contact Our Club:**

SLFF P.O. Box 166 SLO, CA 93406

### **EMAIL:**

info@santaluciaflyfishers.com

#### WEBSITE:

www.santaluciaflyfishers.com



Montaña de Oro in Spring

### In This Month's Newsletter

President's Message - Eric Tinglof

SLFF Club Speaker: FRANK BURR - Golden Trout Wilderness

Casting Clinic Recap - Eric Tinglof

New Member Profile - Bill Edwards

CA Fly Fisher Magazine is back!

The Santa Lucia Fly Fishers fly fishing club was established in 1975 to give local area fly fishers of San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Santa Maria and northern Santa Barbara, CA, of all skill levels, participation in a club to learn, share and experience the challenges of our sport in salt water surf, and fresh water rivers and lakes.

# President's Message

By Eric Tinglof



Steelheading on the Rogue River, South Central Oregon

March was a very busy month for our Club.

First came the annual banquet at the Madonna Inn. It was great seeing so many new and familiar faces gathered together in support of our Club and in each other. Many thanks to Lew and Bob Bayer for handling guide trips and special orders, Steve Soenke for gathering and delivering member donations and the rest of the Board for making this event happen. It was a pleasure announcing the winner of the 2023 Santa Lucia Flyfisher of the Year, Don Wheeler. As always, most of my thanks goes to Glynis, my true partner.

Two casting clinics were organized and completed, despite complications with the weather. Furthermore, Santa Rita Ranch was reopened to our Club for the first time this year to conduct fish surveys. The April SRR dates have just now been posted to the website under the heading "Events". Pick a date that is open and snag a free ticket to members. These fill up, so always act fast. If an event on a particular day is full but you want to get on the waiting list, contact the "gatekeeper" directly to do so. There are typically last-minute adjustments that need to be made due to unforeseen cancellations. I was able to get out on the SRR lake with seven other Club members last week. What a beautiful day on the water, with fish to the net by all.

Finally, I was able to sneak up to South Central Oregon with a few other Club members at the start of the month, targeting steelhead during their winter run on the Rogue River. We camped out in a riverside State campground and fished two days with the guide who spoke at our Club meeting in January. I have been on three previous steelhead trips in my life, all coming up empty on the Trinity and the Deschutes (except for a nice salmon that was the talk of Maupin for a day or two). This was my first time catching one (and then more).

Thrilling for sure!

## Welcome to the SLFF Club! New Members



Sara Rianda **Thomas Myers** Sage Southwood **Stephen Shaw Greg Malik David Bush Maxwell Wright Robert Bell Louise Browne Bill Edwards** 

**Tony Whall** 

## NEW MEMBER PROFILE

### Bill Edwards



Like a lot of kids from Colorado, I grew up fishing. First in the bass and catfish ponds of eastern Kansas with my grandfather, then stalking the high mountain creeks of Colorado with my father, and finally on the Bighorn River in Montana with my best friend who is still a guide on the Big Horn, Blackfoot and other great rivers of Montana.

I often made that 8-hour journey north from my home of Boulder, Colorado to Fort Smith to sleep on Brent's couch and float that 10 Mile stretch of fly fishing heaven. Unfortunately, as life went on and time got shorter I made fewer trips. Then, after moving to California twelve years ago, my fishing dropped off to almost zero, with the exception of a little surf and sea kayak fishing.

Now, thanks to the fortuitous meeting of my wife, Louise, and Donna Sims, I'm lucky enough to have the opportunity to rekindle my childhood passion. Louise and I live with our dog, Gracie, in Atascadero and thoroughly love living here. I am a remodeling project manager overseeing home construction projects for Gannage Design and Construction. I also have my own side business helping homeowners manage their own remodeling and renovation projects. You can find me at www.Remodel.Academy.

I'm looking forward to getting to know some of you, drown a few flies and hopefully catch a few fish. As my buddy Brent would always say, "Tight lines!"

Bill Edwards





## SLFF Newsletter Editor - Open Position 2025

The club is looking for an enthusiastic member to become the next Newsletter Editor! The position will be for the next calendar year, 2025.

Are you interested in contributing to the club and have some (even a little) computer experience?

### The Newsletter Editor is responsible for:

- Gathering club news, articles, and photos to publish each month. These are sent to the editor via email from other club members and the Board of Directors. No need to create them yourself!
- Read over the articles and edit for content and grammatical errors.
- Place articles in the newsletter template and adjust for font, text size, margins, etc.
- Send it to the Board President for final approval. The President will then publish the final newsletter via Mailchimp.

### **ADDITIONAL INFO:**

The newsletter is already set up on a template that will be passed along to the next editor. All that's needed is a word document program (Word or Pages) and internet access.

The current newsletter editor will be available for whoever takes the position with consulting, side-by-side tutoring, etc., for as long as necessary.

Time commitment - approximately 2-3 hours per month.

Contact Eric Tinglof if you're interested. etinglof19@gmail.com

## 2024 Casting Clinic Recap

By Eric Tinglof



Hopefully you were able to participate in at least one of the two clinics that our Club's casting instructors organized on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Many thanks again to Deb Cox, Sally Stoner, Todd Tose, Bob Hurd and Bernard Pieters for volunteering their time to plan and execute these clinics for Club members, with varying experience and skill levels.

I participated in the first clinic and immediately realized my shortcomings, mostly "bouncing" the rod on my back cast. I just need to relax and let the rod power the stroke, not my arm. I was also taught some nifty new tricks, like shaking slack into the line after I have hard stopped my forward cast as the line is settling to the water. That will come in handy when making a cast straight downstream, allowing for a short drift without drag in the line.

Another great technique that we learned was picking up the line downstream at the end of a drift when you are in a tight situation with obstacles blocking your back cast. By first making an "e" motion with the rod in the air to drop the line on the water close to your feet, you can then make the cast you want back upstream. I know I will use this technique a bunch. It already came in handy from a float tube on Santa Rita Ranch last week. I bet that everyone who came out to these clinics picked up some gem which will help them to be a better caster and, therefore, a better fly fisher.

If you want to continue to improve your casting, remember that you can contact any of our FFI certified instructors listed near the end of this newsletter to schedule private casting lessons throughout the year.





## SLFF ANNUAL BANQUET

By Donna Sims

Photo Credit: New Member, Louise Browne

The annual banquet was held on a sunny Saturday at the Madonna Inn, and the turnout of 83 club members was fantastic! Everyone enjoyed some libations, a nice lunch and casual conversations with old and new found friends.

There were many items up for auction, including guided trips, rods and reels, rod cases, boxes of various flies, fly line, nets, wade staffs, Dave Scadden boats, books and many other useful items. We were successful in raising funds via raffle tickets, guided trips and member donations.

Don Wheeler was honored with the Santa Lucia Fly Fisher of the Year for 2023. He is on the Board of Directors as Secretary and is instrumental in powering up the knowledge base on our website. He is also the Salt Water Outing Leader and attends various other fishing outings throughout the year. Congratulations Don!

Our presenter, Doug Rodericks, put on a slide show featuring various fisheries in the Eastern Sierra and their unique qualities.

Thank you to Glynis Tinglof for leading the banquet preparation and to everyone who helped make this day possible. Please consider attending next year's banquet on March 22, 2025 to support our club and to honor our members!









## 2024 Speaker Program Schedule By Lew Leichter

We're increasing the number of in person speakers and are emphasizing programs on California fishing opportunities, most of which you can reach in a one day drive.

DATE	IP (IN PERSON)	NAME	PROGRAM
	Z (ZOOM)		
JAN 11	Z	BRANDON WORTHINGTON	STATE OF JEFFERSON FISHING
			Fishing No CA & So Oregon
FEB 8	IP	JIM COX	WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY
			Update From One Of Our Favorite Non Profits
MARCH 9 BANQUET	IP	DOUG RODERICKS	SIERRA DRIFTERS
			Fishing Eastern Sierra Still Waters
APR 11	IP	FRANK BURR	GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS
MAY 9	IP	MICHAEL SCHWEIT	OFFSHORE
JUNE 13	IP	LCSLO CLC MBNEP	RECOGNIZING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL NON PROFITS
JULY 11	IP	SCOTT MCDONALD	KINGS RIVER
AUG 8	IP	DAN JOHNSON	TROUT UNLIMITED UPDATE
SEPT 7			PICNIC
OCT 10	Z	ANDREW HARRIS	CONFLUENCE OUTFITTERS PROGRAM TBD
NOV 14	IP	DAN LACOUNT	FISHING TRUCKEE AREA
DEC 12		ANNUAL MEETING &	
		MEMBER SLIDE SHOW	

### SLFF MONTHLY CLUB MEETING Thursday, April 11, 2024

The Milking Parlor at the Historic Octagon Barn 4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo (And via Zoom)

Doors open @ **5:45 pm**. General Meeting @ **6:30 p.m**. Log-in instructions will be sent ahead of the meeting, for Zoom.

Some of my fondest memories were my numerous multi day pack trips into the Golden Trout Wilderness, and a place called Jordan Hot Springs. Back in the day, it was set up with camp sights, a small store, and some sort of refrigeration so you could actually buy cold beer. And, there were concrete tubs for bathing. This was before catch and release, and I'm still bummed about all the goldens we ate. Eventually the forest service bulldozed it as part of returning the wilderness to its natural state. Please join us and our guest speaker, Frank Burr, for a neat program on this very special place. Lew

### **GOLDEN TROUT: A California Treasure**

This presentation will introduce you to the California Golden Trout – California's state fish. Three Species of Golden Trout are native to California. We will cover origins of the Golden Trout, the differences between the species, where they can be found in California and angling methods to successfully catch (and release) this most stunning of all the trout species.



## PRESENTATION SPEAKER: FRANK BURR

(See Bio, Next Page)

Frank Burr learned Tenkara fishing in Japan in 1970 at the age of 6, followed by Fly Fishing and Fly tying the following year. A native of Southern California, Frank fly fishes throughout the United States, always looking for the elusive Heritage Trout.



Although Trout is his favorite species, he will fly fish for any species just to get in a day of fishing, like Tilapia, Peacock Bass and native Goby in Hawaii. Frank has worked in the fly fishing industry for the past eleven years for Orvis and now for Snowbee USA, assisting in the design of Ultralight Fly Rods and other products in the Snowbee line. Frank is also a Traditional Fly Fishing and Tenkara instructor and Guide specializing in Golden Trout and other Heritage Trout species in California.

Frank speaks and instructs at the Fly Fishing Show and other related events, clubs and shows in the USA on a variety of fly fishing related subjects and volunteers as many days as possible each year teaching youth fly fishing programs. He has been the Trout in the Classroom coordinator for the Pasadena Casting Club and is currently the TIC Director for the Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International.

You can find more information about Frank at: <u>goldentroutdude.com</u>, <u>oasisflyshop.com</u> and <u>tenkaraguidecalifornia.com</u>



## Santa Rita Ranch Pond Creel Survey

By Tom Nickelson

### **Background**

When the pond at Santa Rita Ranch was made available for fishing by members of the Santa Lucia Fly Fishers in the spring of 2022, an on-line creel survey was established. The purpose of the survey was to monitor the health of the pond's fish populations. Unfortunately the original design was not adequate to accomplish this purpose and the survey was modified late in the spring to include actual counts of fish caught in each size class.

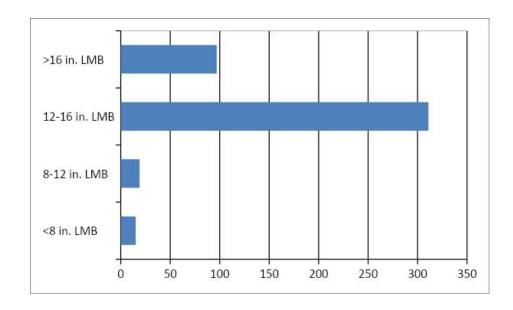
### 2022 Results

In spring of 2022, 87 anglers fished for 391.5 hours. The primary species caught were largemouth bass and bluegill. However three different anglers reported catching smallmouth bass on 7 different occasions and one angler reported catching crappie on two different occasions. These were likely data errors or misidentification as neither species has been reported since.

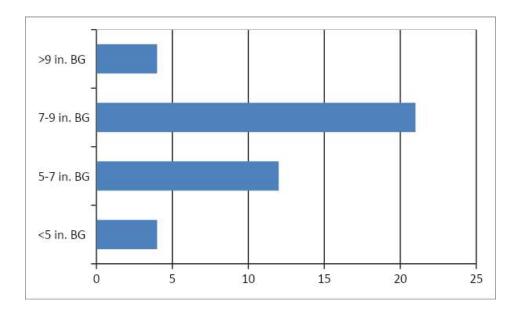
In the fall of 2022 two anglers fished a total of 5 hours and caught no fish.

### 2023 Results

In the spring of 2023, 88 anglers fished for 441 hours and caught 442 largemouth bass (LMG), 41 bluegill (BG), and one 12-inch rainbow trout. Seventy percent of the bass were 12-16 inches, 22% were greater than 16 inches and only 8% were less than 12 Inches (see chart).



Of the bluegill caught, 51% were 7-9 inches, 29% were 5-7 inches, 10% were greater than 9 inches, and 10% were less than 5 inches (see chart).



In the fall of 2023 four anglers fished a total of 13 hours and caught 2 largemouth bass.

### 2022 vs. 2023 Comparison

Comparable data collection techniques for the two years are only available for the period near the end of the spring season: from mid-June through the first week in July. In 2023, largemouth bass were caught at a rate of 0.58 per hour (compared to 1.05 per hour earlier in the season). During the same period in 2022, largemouth bass were caught at a rate of only 0.32 per hour. These results suggest that fishing was better in 2023 than in 2022. However, it should be noted that Bernard Pieters, who only fished during the early period both years feels that fishing was much better in 2022, based on his personal logbook data (which I haven't seen).

Only one bluegill was caught during this time period and that was in 2023.

### **Discussion**

For the purpose of monitoring Bass and Bluegill, the most important pieces of information collected by the survey are the **fishing date**, **beginning and ending times of fishing**, and the **number of each species caught in each length class**. These data will allow us to determine trends in catch per effort (a surrogate for population size). It will also alert us to changes in population size structure (a surrogate for age structure). For example it would be important to know whether the catch per effort of large fish declines over time, as these fish are the most important spawners.

We want to minimize the impacts of our fishing on the health of the population. Thus when we catch a fish we need to minimize handling. Be sure to use barbless hooks and keep the fish in the water (measuring nets are a great help in determining size without taking the fish out of the water).



### THE RETURN OF CALIFORNIA FLY FISHER MAGAZINE!

For those of us who have missed CFF here is some good news from Lance Gray:

"The big news that came out of the Pleasanton show is that *California Fly Fisher* is back. The first new issue is going to be available in July. I am so excited. The new publisher has asked me to continue my duties in the Foraging Angler Column and provide articles as I always have done. I look forward to the next chapter of this great magazine."

### 2024 SLFF Club Fishing Outings

Date	Event	Contact Email	Contact Name
January-September TBD	Monthly Surf Perch Outings	klb1048@gmail.com Isleichter@hotmail.com jerryjames1@mac.com <donaldgwheeler@gmai l.com&gt;</donaldgwheeler@gmai 	Ken Baldwin Lew Leichter Don Wheeler Jerry James
February TBD	Salinas River Striper trip.	Isleichter@hotmail.com	Lew Leichter
March 2 & 16	Casting Clinic	bpieters84@gmail.com	Bernard Pieters
May-July TBD	Lake San Antonio Carp fishing	donaldgwheeler@gmail. com	Don Wheeler
June 10 -12	Children's Fishing Camp	Isleichter@hotmail.com	Lew Leichter
June 23-29	Manzanita Lake	bpieters84@gmail.com	Bernard Pieters
August 3	Halibut Fishing/Avila	bpieters84@gmail.com	Bernard Pieters
August 4-9	San Juan River NM	lynda.and.jim@comcast .net	Jim Snodgrass
October 18-21	Western Sierra	garybtd@aol.com	Gary Brennan
October 5-12	Lake Almanor/Eagle Lake	klb1048@gmail.com lsleichter@hotmail.com	Ken Baldwin Lew Leichter
November/December TBD	O'Neil Forebay Striper Fishing	mshelton@calpoly.edu	Mark Shelton

Comments: Dates and locations (TBD) for surf fishing will be determined by time, tides, and weather conditions. Notifications will be sent out by e-blast.

The dates regarding the specific locations will be determined by the response of members wishing to participate in the outings. We will update you by email and notices in the club newsletter.

### MANZANITA LAKE OUTING

### **JUNE 23 - 29**

### By Bernard Pieters

This majestic place with its snow-covered alpine peaks and natural beauty, wild trout, and quality fishing, brings us back year after year. It also attracts a lot of non-fishers, and because of this THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF CAMPSITES on the weekend and AROUND THE TIME OF THE OUTING.

If you are interested, I urge you to reserve your campsite now!

WHERE: Manzanita Lake: Lassen N-Park (north entrance).

Take Highway 44 east out of Redding.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Camping near the lake (no hookups), and cabins.

Motels are in Shingletown,- 14 miles toward Redding.

RESERVATIONS: recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

Reservations can be made six months in advance. Most club members are camping in loop C. I have reserved site C-1 for myself

FOR THOSE NEW TO THE LAKE: Do you want to step up your still-water knowledge?

Manzanita is the lake to go to!

Here is a fair assessment of what you can expect during your stay. Despite the overall good fishing the lake is known for, it can also be challenging. Keep in mind that the 14" to 18 "wild trout are catch and release, and at times, highly educated about what they will eat.

Speaking from my own experience of fishing this lake for twenty-five years, many of us have encountered situations when we individually tried to figure out what was going on with this fish. Was it the fly, the cast, the leader, the retrieve, the weather? Or was it simple trial and error? When you do figure it out, IT CAN PAY OFF BIG TIME.

What I and some of us like about the lake, it's one of the rare still-water beauties that can teach us a lesson. It can challenge us to rise to the occasion, step up our fishing knowledge, and become better still-water fly fishers!

SEE MORE INFO - NEXT PAGE

The fishing is primarily done in 4 to 8 ft of water, with long 12-17 ft leaders over submerged weed beds. Most of us begin to fish around mid-morning and stop by mid-afternoon. In general, the fishing is slow between 3:30 and 7 pm. This will give you ample time to have dinner, and be ready for the evening fishing. If fishing the gods were not on your side during the day, you have still a good shot at great fishing in the evening.

The lake comes back to life when the sun is going off the water around 7:30 pm. The dry-fly activity starts at that time, with improving results later in the evening until dark. During this low-light period, the fish are much less picky and easier to fool. What was (for some) hard to achieve during the day is now working great. At the same time 8 to 9:30 pm, stripping a dark medium-sized seal or wooly-bugger can be very productive, with a lot of breathtaking violent strikes from mostly brown trout. This is a great way to end your fishing day and to dream of the next fishing morning.

A float tube or pontoon boat is the best way to go, however, many good spots around this 80-acre lake can be fished productively from the shore.

TACKLE: 4 to 6 wt rod / floating line / and hover line 1 ips.

LEADERS: For dry flies 12 to 17 ft including 3 ft 6x fluoro tippet.

In low light hours :10 to13 ft incl 3 ft 4 to 5 x mono or fluoro tippet.

For nymphs: 12 to 15 ft incl 3 to 4 ft 4 to 6 x fluoro tippet.

In low light hours 10 to 12ft incl 3 to 4 ft 4 to 5 x fluoro or mono tip.

For w-buggers and wiggle tails 12 to 15 ft incl 3 to 5 ft 4 to 5x fluoro tippet Low light after 8:00 pm: 9 to 12 ft incl 3 to 4 ft 3 x mono or fluoro tippet.

DRY FLIES: Parachute Adams, Female Adams, Callibaetis - cripples, duns, all in size 14 to 18.

Black Ants size 12-14.

NYMPHS: Callibaetis / Cold Ribbed Hare's ear and flashbacks / Birds Nest / Pheasant

Tail, all in size 14 to 18. Damsels-olive 12 to 14. Chironomids in black or red 14 to 18.

STREAMERS: Small W- Buggers (olive), Wiggle tail (olive) sizes 8 -10.

In low light hours: W- B or Seal Buggers (black or brown) sizes 6 to 8.

We plan to have a short, daily get-together fish report at 5 pm in loop C. **I am in site C-1**. At the get-together, we will talk about what was working, or not working, during our fishing day. If necessary, we will come up with an adjusted fishing plan. A dinner get-together can be arranged for Wednesday from 6 to 6:45 pm.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Bernard Pieters - (805) 489-3085

See you at Manzanita!

<sup>\*\*</sup> A fishing license and life jacket are REQUIRED.

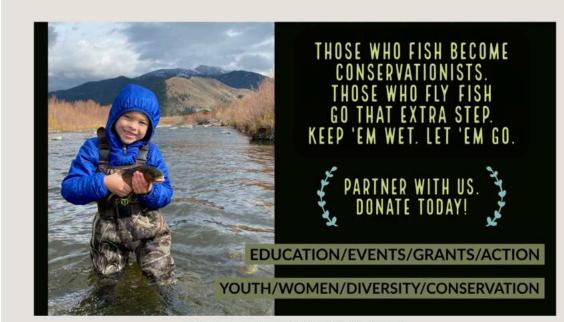


Fly Fishers International (FFI) is dedicated, through education and conservation, to preserving the fly fishing experience. Conservation of our public waters and connected upland's is essential to our enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of fishes and their habitats and also the health of natural systems.

"When you teach a person to fly fish you have just created a conservationist"

- Lee Wulff





Pictured above: Asher de Callier with his prize trout.

"When we teach a person to fly fish, we just created a conservationist." Lee Wulff

#### https://www.swcffi.org/donate

or send a check to: Southwest Council PO Box 52, South Pasadena, CA 91031

If you would like to sign up for the Southwest Council Fly Fishers International's (SWCFFI) monthly newsletter, click here: <a href="http://eepurl.com/dEL97L">http://eepurl.com/dEL97L</a>

### PRIVATE CASTING LESSONS AVAILABLE

While our six FFI 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 also 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
Bob Hurd Arroyo Grande 550-9071 rbrthurd@gmail.com
Todd Tose Grover Beach 904-5288. trtflyfisher@charter.net

Sally Stoner Halcyon 550-9509 fishsal44@gmail.com

Deb Cox Arroyo Grande 440-4344 <a href="mailto:debgrainercox@yahoo.com">debgrainercox@yahoo.com</a>

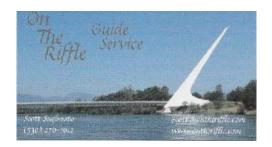
#### SLFF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

An individual regular membership is \$45.00 per year for 12 months (January through December).

Enrollment after July 1st is \$30.00 for the remainder of the year.

To join, please visit our website: santaluciaflyfishers.com

MEMBERSHIP FEES CAN BE PAID ONLINE New Members or Membership Renewal







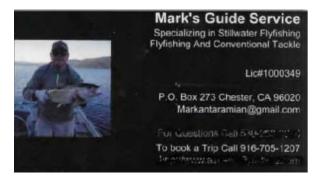


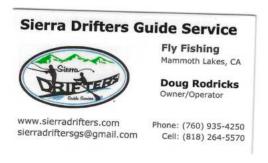














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VICE PRESIDENT	KEN BALDWIN		440-4200
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ASST SECRETARY	CHRIS RHOADES		441-8394
TREASURER	GLYNIS TINGLOF		234 - 6299
DIRECTORS	LEW LEICHTER	934-2476	452-0497
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	ERIC SHERAR	461-3333	
FLY TYING	JIM SNODGRASS	925-5426	235-3738
	MIKE GRIFFITH		464-0622
KNOT TYING	DAVID HOLMES		550-9323
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	STEVE SOENKE (MEMBER GIFTS)		550 1715
	LEW LEICHTER (GUIDES/ GEAR)	934-2476	452-0497
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	MARK SHELTON		459-7863
	ERIC TINGLOF		417-861-0264