



TIGHT LINES

info@santaluciaflyfishers.com

| San Luis Obispo County |

Editor: Michael Powers

Save-the-Dates

50th Anniversary
Founded 1975

- **June 12, 2025** – SLFF Monthly Meeting, speaker Phil Rowley
- **July 10, 2025** – SLFF Monthly Meeting, speaker *You, the members!*
- **August 14, 2025** – SLFF Monthly Meeting, speaker Brian O'Keefe
- **September 7, 2025** – SLFF Fall Social

- **June 23, 2025** – Newsletter material deadline for June newsletter

Contact Our Club:

SLFF
P.O. Box 166
SLO, CA 93406

EMAIL:
info@santaluciaflyfishers.com

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www.santaluciaflyfishers.com



Rae Lakes Loop Trail

In This Month's Newsletter

President's Message
New Member Welcome
June Meeting
Fall Western Sierra Outing
Bass Tips and Tricks, Revisited

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 saltwater surf, and freshwater rivers and lakes.

President's Message

By Eric Tinglof



Glynis Chaffin Tinglof - Artist Rendering of A
Theatrical Release Poster

Before my father, Birger Olaf Tinglof Jr., (about as Swedish a sounding name as they come) passed away in his early sixties, he tried one more time to interest me in the fine art of fly fishing. He organized a backpacking trip for us over the Cottonwood Pass into the Golden Trout Wilderness area of the Eastern Sierra. He was downright giddy about bringing ice axes with us for the first time to navigate the snow at the top of the pass.

For five days, we camped in a beautiful spot, encountering no other people the whole time we were there. The only interruptions to this tranquil life were the occasional fighter jet roaring down the valley. On the first day, I was sitting in the sun, thoroughly engrossed in a Robert Ludlum novel called *The Matarese Circle*, when suddenly my dad appeared and asked, "Are we fishing?". Jumping up with fly rod in hand, I finally started to appreciate over the course of those days, this other method of fishing, beyond a spinning rig, a bobber and salmon eggs. I was always good at reading the water, but this seemed different. I slowed down. I got naturally stealthy. I let all my senses be open to the small natural wonders that surrounded me. I caught gobs of fish. Finally, he had converted me.

Years later, when we no longer backpacked together anymore, he visited me at our new home in the Bay Area. The movie, "A River Runs Through It" was just released, quickly becoming the fly-fishing classic that it is today. It seemed important to him to take me to see it, so I went. It's a funny thing, but we really didn't talk much through the course of our lives. We just loved being in the outdoors together. I remember sitting in that theatre with him, thinking of how lucky I was to have a dad that truly loved me.

A few months before he died, Glynis gave him an oil painting that she had worked on to capture the memory of this one moment in our lives. When he opened the present, it brought him to his knees with unbridled joy.

To all of you fathers, who have touched the lives of your daughters, your sons, your grandchildren, Happy Father's Day!

Remembering George & Madeline Protsman

Lew Leichter

Yesterday I learned I lost another great friend and couple. George's son TJ let me know he passed away last Friday and Madeline will be in a senior care facility in Carmel to be close to family.

George and I made an immediate connection in that we both worked in the office supply industry. George owned a contract stationery business and I was the CFO of a company that sold product to him. That led to a neat long-lasting friendship.

The thing I remember most about them is that they always did most everything together and they both loved to fly fish.

George and Madeline moved to the Black Lake community in Nipomo from the bay area in 2008 and joined the club that year. From the beginning they were both very active and huge supporters of our club. They also had a second home at Lake Almanor which led to our club's annual outing to fish the hex hatch and who can forget many fun days of fishing at little Crater Lake? George also loved to cook and would have the club to their house for dinner one night while we were there. Lots of great memories.

He also arranged a club outing to Stewart's Lodge, his favorite lodge in BC. 8 of us enjoyed a week of flying out to a different lake each day where a boat and been staged being dropped off and being picked up later in the day.

I think I had already started our annual outings to the San Juan and the Soaring Eagle. They became regular attendees usually getting there as part of one of their many road trips.

Needless to say I'll miss them both.



MemberProfile

Tom Fitzhugh

Greetings fellow SLFF members! I've been requested to submit a profile for this month's newsletter so here goes:

I was born and raised in South Florida with easy access to the Everglades and the Keys. I grew up fishing the local canals for bass, crappie, catfish and gar. Fished the Everglades for more bass, tarpon (and the occasional accidental alligator), and fished saltwater for grouper, speckled trout, snapper, kingfish, sailfish, etc. I bought a cheap combo fly rod kit out of curiosity as a teenager. I took it to the Everglades, couldn't figure out what to do with it, and went back to spinning. After graduating college, I moved to Southern California (South Bay) to work in the aerospace industry, which I stuck with through my career.

Once in California, I could never re-create the fishing experiences I had in Florida, but I loved the West and became an avid camper/RVer and outdoors-person. My conversion to fly-fishing occurred in a campground in Utah. I had an afternoon to kill, a Lefty Kreh book, a film-can of flies a friend gave me, and my now-25-year old fly combo rig. I hiked over to the stream that ran through the campground and caught my first trout exactly where I figured one would be. I was every bit as hooked as that trout was after that, and I've been trying to become a competent fly-fisher ever since. Over the years I've fished Eastern Sierras, most Western states, and Mexico/Belize.

After retiring in 2014, my wife Nancy and I moved up to Atascadero, and couldn't be happier. We love to hike, kayak, camp, and generally enjoy the lack of crowds and plentiful open space. We have two daughters and a grand-daughter on the Central Coast. We have two dogs, an Australian Shepherd and an English Shepherd puppy. Nancy trains and competes them in agility, rally and scent work. I'm allowed to play with them. In addition to fishing, I enjoy studying guitar, riding my motorcycles, and pursuing business ventures. Specific areas of interest for me are learning to fly fish the Western Sierras, local lakes for bass and surf fishing.. Looking forward to meeting and fishing with you!



Welcome New SLFF Member! John Flaherty

New member John Flaherty here. My wife Virginia and I have owned and operated Central Coast Outdoors since 2003. Currently we just offer kayak tours of Morro Bay, but in the past we also offered hiking tours and bicycling tours. I originally got into fly fishing because I love to backpack and heard about tenkara and was very intrigued. Most of my fly fishing experience has been with tenkara in the High Sierra on little lakes for little brookies. I recently came into possession of an older traditional fly fishing rod/reel and thought I might try to see if I can catch fish further than 20 feet from me. I also spin fish occasionally in the surf and in freshwater.



SLFF MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Thursday, June 12, 2025

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.

Ten Stillwater Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Nobody deliberately sets out to make a mistake, especially when fly fishing lakes. After all, fly fishing is challenging enough. I use my over 35 years of stillwater experience to identify the top 10 stillwater mistakes I see regularly and, most importantly, how to cure them. A must-see if you wish to improve your success next time on the water.

Phil has been fly fishing for over 35 years. His love of fly fishing has taken him across North and South America, pursuing trout, Atlantic and Pacific salmon, char, pike, walleye, and numerous other species on the fly. Phil is probably best known for his stillwater exploits.

A former commercial fly tyer, Phil has written for almost every major fly-fishing publication in North America. He has authored five books, including his recently released Orvis Guide to



Stillwater Trout Fishing and numerous feature articles. Phil has been the fly-tying columnist for B.C. Outdoors Magazine for over 15 years. His first book, Fly Patterns for Stillwaters, is a best seller. In 2014, Phil was the proud recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from Fly Tyer magazine, and in 2017, the Jean-Guy Cote award for his contribution to Canadian fly tying.

In addition to his writing, Phil has five instructional DVDs. Recently, Phil began providing online learning through his Stillwater Academy. Phil was also a competitive fly fisher. He was a member of the gold medal-winning team at the 2017 Canadian Fly-Fishing Championships.

When he isn't on the water, Phil travels North America performing at outdoor shows, providing seminars, speaking to fly clubs, and conducting fly-fishing schools and flytying clinics. Phil also provides instructional stillwater guiding on the lakes located a short distance from his Edmonton area home.

Phil has appeared on several T.V. shows, including B.C. Outdoors Sports Fishing, Adventures, The New Fly Fisher, Sport Fishing B.C., Fishing Alberta, Let's Go Outdoors, and Fishing with Shelly and Courtney. Make a point of visiting or following Phil online at www.philrowleyflyfishing.com or www.stillwaterflyfishingstore.com and through his social media channels, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Declassified ...

Salt Water Opportunities from Richard Avant

I would like to invite any club member aboard my boat to fish. I lost a couple of crew members to untimely deaths at the end of last year, so my remaining crew and I are looking for new anglers. I own and captain a 50ft. Sport fisher moored in Channel Islands Harbor. The trips are usually overnight fishing the Channel Islands and Catalina and we go about every 2 weeks. There is usually open spots for two or more anglers. There is opportunity to fly fish and I keep saltwater fly gear on board. We are not too serious and try to have fun fishing. So if you could please make this public for all members. Interested persons can contact me at 805-709-2975 or at avantmaritimeservices@gmail.com. Regards, Richard Avant

2025 Speaker Program Schedule Low Leichter and Mark Shelton

DATE	IP (IN PERSON) Z (ZOOM)	NAME	PROGRAM
JAN 9	IP	JOE GARZA	YUBA
FEB 13		STEVE SCHALLA	GOLDEN TROUT
MAR 22	BANQUET	LANCE GRAY	NO CAL WATERS TOUR
			FEATHER RIVER, ALMANOR & MANZANITA
APR 10	IP	TIM FRAHM	TU CENTRAL COAST STEELHEAD
MAY 8	IP	AUDREY TAUB	BEAVERS AND WHY THEY MATTER
JUNE 12	ZOOM	PHIL ROWLEY	STILLWATER MISTAKES
JULY 10	IP	MEMBERS	MEMORABLE MEMBER TRIPS
AUG 14	ZOOM	BRIAN O'KEEFE	FLATS FISHING BAHAMAS, BELIZE, MEXICO
			CUBA
SEP 7	FALL SOCIAL		
OCT 9	IP	SCOTT SUGIMOTO	LOWER SAC FISHING TECHNIQUES
NOV 13	ZOOM	SKIP & CAROL MORRIS	MAKE SOFT HACKLE AND WET FLY
DEC 11	IP	ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBER SLIDE SHOW	

Western Sierra Trout Outing - October 14-17

Eric Tinglof

We are pleased to announce our fourth annual Western Sierra trout outing centered on the dates of October 14th through 17th. If you want to come sooner or later, that is great. A group dinner is planned for Thursday night October 16th.

We will be fishing the South Fork of the Kings River again this year. The trout tend to be on the smaller side but that is what you usually expect with walking and wading small streams. The terrain can be rough at times, but access to fishing is generally available to all. And, what a magnificent backdrop: Kings Canyon National Park, Roads End and the General Grant big redwood grove make for an exhilarating trip to be sure.

If you are not in the mood for camping, the Cedar Grove Lodge offers rooms, but everything is starting to book up. Some members have already been able to make room reservations at the Lodge.

<https://www.visitsequoia.com/stay/lodging/cedar-grove-lodge/>

Campsites at the Sentinel Campground near the Lodge become available exactly 4 months before the start date. We know the cluster of sites that worked last year, and we will book reservations for the group camping at **7:00 AM on June 14th**. If you are interested in joining this outing, please let me know ASAP so that we will be ready to pounce when the reservation window opens.

etinglof19@gmail.com

417-861-0264



BASS TIPS AND TRICKS, REVISITED

Andy Harrison

(Note: A similar version of this article appeared in the January 2021 SLFF Newsletter.)

Catching bass in a float tube or kickboat in a small pond is one of the most enjoyable ways to fly fish. Over the years I've stumbled upon a few techniques that have increased my catch rate. Hopefully these will help you too.



FISH WITH STEALTH AND WATCH WHERE YOU KICK THOSE FINS

Bass are very sensitive to the low-frequency vibrations that result from water displacement. These vibrations tell bass different things depending upon their magnitude. Small, subtle vibrations--like those emitted by a baitfish--tell the bass prey is near. On the other hand, large, unusual vibrations--like those produced by an angler in a kickboat wearing fins--put the bass on their guard. Stealth is just as important floating a small bass pond as it is when creeping along the banks of a creek.

Most of the bass you're going to catch in small ponds will be located in water only 2 to 8 feet deep. That's shallow enough to be disturbed by the water displaced when you kick your fins. Try to stay out of that shallower water until after you've fished it. Position your boat in the deeper water while you hunt for fish in the shallows. A depth-finder is very useful for this.

To put it simply, don't fish where you have been kicking, and don't kick where you want to fish.



YOU'LL CATCH MORE BASS IF YOU MINIMIZE YOUR FALSE CASTING

Everybody envisions the fly fisher's graceful fly line dancing back and forth through the air, so this may sound like heresy, but learn to deliver your fly without false casting. This applies to fishing a surface fly with a floating line as well as a subsurface fly with a sinking line. It takes practice, but it'll pay off with more hookups. Your false cast puts the bass on alert and instantly reduces your chances of catching it.

Bass are ambush feeders, often holing up near the shoreline or structure, waiting for a meal to wander or fall into their "window", which is larger than you might think. Try to picture what a bass sees when you false cast your fly through its window: It sees an object (plus the shadow of your line and leader) zipping around above the water, suddenly appearing and then disappearing just as quickly. That screams PREDATOR and puts the bass down. You've lost the element of surprise and that bass will likely get lockjaw.

Now picture what a lurking bass sees if you don't false cast, but instead use your first cast to drop the fly into its window unannounced. An object that appears out of nowhere and softly plops into the water says PREY to any bass nearby and it will often immediately strike.

Granted, there are some situations in which you can't avoid a false-cast. Maybe you're trying to reach a lie that's farther away and you need to haul and shoot line, or you're fishing with a sinking line that sinks too fast to toss behind you with one flip. If you must false-cast, don't do it towards your target line. Instead, false-cast away from the fish, then change the direction as you deliver the fly.

Delivering your fly without a false cast requires a fly line with a short heavy head and the ability to toss the entire fly line behind you with one single backcast. Again, this takes practice. But you'll like the results if you can master this method.

USE FLIES WITH A WEEDGUARD

Bass love to hang out near underwater structure like rocks, dead tree branches, weeds, or anything else that will snag your fly. If you want to target these fish you have to live dangerously and cast into the junk. This is counterintuitive because nobody wants to lose flies or waste fishing time freeing up snags. Besides, when you snag your fly that means you have to kick over into that fishy water to get it free, thus guaranteeing you won't catch the big bass that was lurking there.

Flies that do not snag not only increase your fishing time, they push the limits of where you can and can't cast. Bass hang out in the tules and reeds. If the tules are vertical you can toss a weedless fly into them and retrieve it without fear of snagging. You can toss a weedless fly onto the bank or on top of a weed mat, and a nearby bass will often feel the vibrations when it lands and come over for a look. Get ready to set the hook when you pull it into the water and the bass grabs it!

There are many variations of weedguards for bass flies, but the one that works the best for me is the double loop style.



STREAMLINE YOUR SETUP TIME

Oftentimes while bass fishing, the catching is best earlier in the morning then peters out as the day wears on. That doesn't mean you won't catch fish throughout the entire day--it simply means your percentages of hooking up are better the earlier you start. Do your best to streamline your setup time to ensure you're ready to hit the water casting during those prime morning hours. A couple examples would be to partially inflate your kickboat and organize the gear pockets at home, or pre-rig your rods and use rod protectors so you don't have to string them up at the pond. Load your gear in a consistent, systematic way so you don't have to search for stuff while your pals are already catching fish. You might be surprised by how much more prime fishing time you'll accumulate every season by developing a system that gets you on the water faster.



KEEP MOVING AND GO FOR THE "REACTION BITE"

Want to catch more bass? One possible way to achieve that is to show your fly to more bass when you fish. This sounds simple enough but is harder to put into actual practice when you're sitting in fishy water and want to keep casting to it. Cover more water and you'll cover more fish.

One effective way to counter slower fishing is to go for a reaction bite, where you catch the bass off guard and it strikes without having much time to think things over. This will usually happen on the first cast to that fish if it's going to happen at all. Your highest-percentage cast to each new spot is your first cast, so make it count. Then move on.

There are many subtle factors that determine whether the bass will bite your fly or not. Nobody understands all of these nuances except the bass themselves, and they aren't talking. You might be fishing like Lefty Kreh, placing perfectly cast flies in front of whoppers, but the bass simply won't cooperate. Don't take it personally, just move on. If the bass in the spot you're casting to hasn't bitten your fly by cast number two or three, chances are excellent it won't strike on cast number twelve either. Resist the temptation to keep casting to uncooperative fish. Instead, keep moving until you find some that will bite.

Updating Contact Information on the Santa Lucia Fly Fishers website.

It is very easy to update addresses, email addresses and change passwords on the website. Log into the website with your username and password. Go into the "Members" dropdown under the SLFF logo and select "My Account". In "Account Details" on the left hand side of the page you can change your email address or reset your password. In the "Address" section you can change your home address. Then press the green "SAVE CHANGES" button at the bottom of each page and you are done.

2025 TENTATIVE OUTINGS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT EMAIL
January - September Dates TBD	Surf Perch outings SLO County	Don Wheeler	donaldgwheeler@gamil.com
	Surf Perch outings SB County	Ken Baldwin	klb1048@gmail.com
February 1 & 8 (make up Feb 22)	Casting Clinic	Bernard Pieters	bpieters84@gmail.com
March - June Dates TBD	Santa Rita Ranch	Bob Bayer	rbayer319@gmail.com
		Don Wheeler	donaldgwheeler@gmail.com
		Andy Harrison	aharrison99@att.net
May Date TBD	Kid's Camp	Lew Leichter	lsleichter@hotmail.com
June 22 - 26	Manzanita Lake	Bernard Pieters	bpieters84@gmail.com
June 22 - June 28	Lake Almanor	Lew Leichter	lsleichter@hotmail.com
July 7-July 12	San Juan River	Jlm Snodgrass	lynda.and.jim@comcast.net
August Date TBD	Avila Bay Halibut outing	Bernard Pieters	bpieters84@gmail.com
September Date TBD	Easten Sierra	LEADER NEEDED	
October 14-16	Kings River	Eric Tinglof	ETinglof19@gmail.com
November/December Date TBD	O'Neil Forebay Striper fishing	Mark Shelton	mshelton@calpoly.edu
Other Possible Outings	Kern River	LEADER NEEDED	
	Yuba & Feather River	LEADER NEEDED	



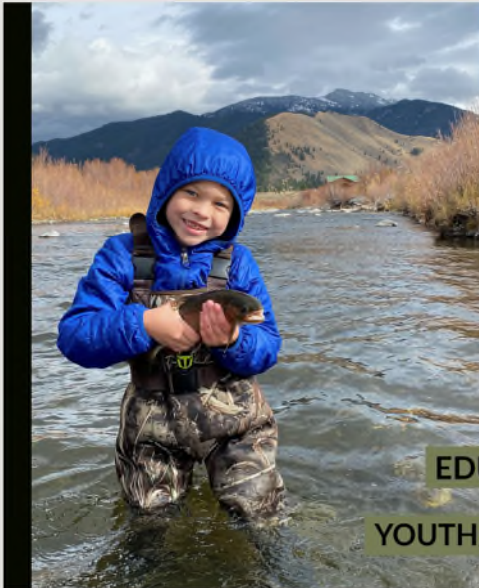
FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

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

JOIN FFI TODAY



THOSE WHO FISH BECOME
CONSERVATIONISTS.
THOSE WHO FLY FISH
GO THAT EXTRA STEP.
KEEP 'EM WET. LET 'EM GO.

PARTNER WITH US.
DONATE TODAY!

EDUCATION/EVENTS/GRANTS/ACTION

YOUTH/WOMEN/DIVERSITY/CONSERVATION

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:

<http://eepurl.com/dEL97L>

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 debgrainercox@yahoo.com

SLFF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

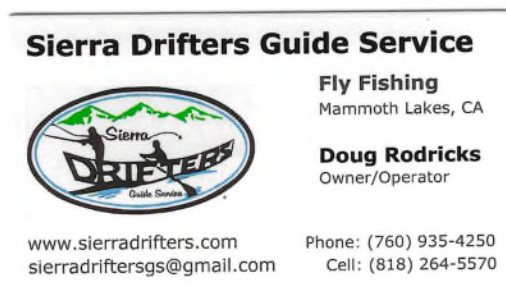
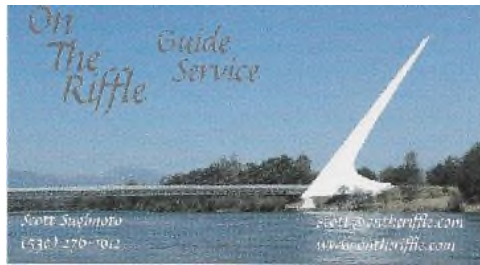
An individual regular membership is \$45.00 per year for 12 months (January through December).

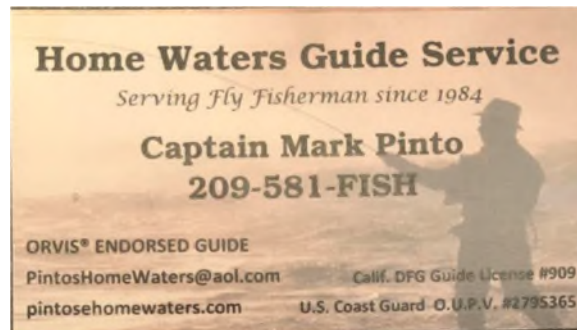
Enrollment after July 1st is \$30.00 for the remainder of the year.

**To join, please visit our website:
santaluciaflyfishers.com**

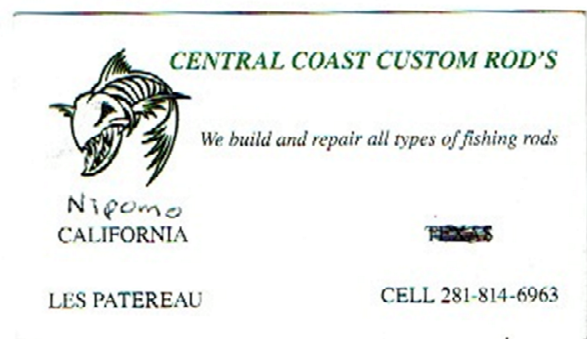
**MEMBERSHIP FEES CAN BE PAID ONLINE
New Members or Membership Renewal**

GUIDE SERVICES:





LOCAL SERVICES:



SLFF CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS		& COMMITTEE MEMBERS	
OFFICERS		HOME	CELL
PRESIDENT	ERIC TINGLOF		417-861-0264
VICE PRESIDENT			
SECRETARY	DON WHEELER		610-3158
ASST SECRETARY	CHRIS RHOADES		441-8394
TREASURER	GLYNIS TINGLOF		234 - 6299
ASST TREASURER	TOM FITZHUGH		310-935-9423
DIRECTORS	LEW LEICHTER	934-2476	452-0497
	BERNARD PIETERS	489-3085	
	KEVIN SHAW	213-229-9550	818-640-9694
	GLYNIS TINGLOF		234 - 6299
	ERIC TINGLOF		417 861-0264
	KEN BALDWIN		440-4200
	DON WHEELER		610-3158
	BOB BAYER	474-8950	434-7905
	RICH JENSEN		680-7615
	CHRIS RHOADES		441-8394
	TOM FITZHUGH		310-935-9423
	DON NOTT		626-289-1315
COMMITTEES	TOM FITZHUGH		
CONSERVATION	DON BALDWIN		440-6811
MEMBERSHIP	KEVIN SHAW		818-640-9694
NEWSLETTER	MIKE POWERS		748-7241
PROGRAMS	LEW LEICHTER	934-2476	452-0497
	MARK SHELTON		459-7863

OUTINGS SALT WATER	KEN BALDWIN		440-4200
	DON WHEELER		610-3158
OUTINGS FRESH WATER	DON NOTT		626-289-1315
EDUCATION			
CASTING	BERNARD PIETERS	489-3085	
FLY TYING	JIM SNODGRASS	925-5426	235-3738
BANQUET & BBQ	GLYNIS TINGLOF		234 - 6299
WEBSITE	CARSON DICICCO		345-5980
FUND RAISING	BOB BAYER (GEAR/SPECIAL ORDERS)		434-7905
	KEN BALDWIN (GEAR)		440-4200
	STEVE SOENKE (MEMBER GIFTS)		550 1715
	LEW LEICHTER (GUIDES/GEAR)	934-2476	452-0497
FINANCIAL AUDITS	LEW LEICHTER	934-2476	452-0497
	RICH JENSEN		680-7615
LIBRARY	STEVE SOENKE		550 1715
SWCFFI COORDINATOR	RICH JENSEN		680-7615
NOMINATING	LEW LEICHTER	934-2476	452-0497
	MARK SHELTON		459-7863
	ERIC TINGLOF		417-861-0264