

SANTA LUCIA Fly Fishers



TIGHT LINES

info@santaluciaflyfishers.com

| San Luis Obispo County |

Editor: Michael Powers

Save-the-Dates

50th Anniversary
Founded 1975

- **September 7, 2025** – SLFF Fall Social
- **October 9, 2025** – SLFF Monthly Meeting, speaker Scott Sugimoto
- **November 13, 2025** – SLFF Monthly Meeting, speaker Skip and Carol Morris

- **September 24, 2025** – Newsletter material deadline for October newsletter

Contact Our Club:

SLFF
P.O. Box 166
SLO, CA 93406

EMAIL:
info@santaluciaflyfishers.com

WEBSITE:
www.santaluciaflyfishers.com



Ribbon Creek, Kananaskis, Alberta Province

In This Month's Newsletter

President's Message
Member Profile: Mark Shelton
SLFF Fall Social
Fall Western Sierra Outing Updated
Avila Halibut Outing Report
Special Offer from California Fly Fisher

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



Isaac catching his first fish on a fly rod,
Ribbon Lake, Kananaskis, Alberta Province

Today, August 31st, is the deadline to buy tickets to the Fall Social on Sunday September 7th. Hope to see you all there.

I have two mates in Edmonton that I have been lucky to backpack with in the Canadian Rockies for the last 23 years. One is named Ricky Bobby (because he loves NASCAR). The other is named Stupid Al (because he is, well, stupid). Al's son Issac is an Alberta Provincial Conservation Officer, like our National Park Rangers who specialize in law enforcement. As such, Isaac has access to backcountry Ranger cabins that are not open to the public. Lucky for me, he recently led us up a rough 12.8 Km route to one such cabin where we stayed for two nights, enjoying the splendor of Kananaskis Country.

Isaac was given a fly rod by Al for Christmas but had never used it before this trip. Canadian Rockies lakes are so beautifully green and blue due to the glacier flour rendering them opaque. Therefore, I have never even thought of fishing them once. However, once he told me that our Ribbon Lake destination was gin clear, I asked him to bring along his rod and gear.

When we finally reached the lake, I could see that the light brown shallows extended far before dropping off to the bluer section. Dense shrubbery surrounded the shoreline except on one patch that we could view on the other side. The problem was, how to get there. Searching for a path to wind up there, we finally found a "trail" that led us straight through the thicket to our target. This patch ended up being a nice beach, bisected by the inlet to the lake. Here, the light brown shallows dropped off into the deeper blue within 10 feet. Perfect!

To start, I rigged Isaac up with a leachy looking fly with a florescent pink bead head and a chironomid midge hanging below an indicator. He then proceeded to catch his first several fish on a fly rod, all rainbows and cutthroats in the 14' to 16" range. Later that evening, just before dark, we snaked back to this special spot through the thicket. I replaced the first rig with a simple black leach, which he slowly stripped back. The strikes that he got were simply savage.

When he took a break, I caught a few fish myself, which was a distinct pleasure. But, the real thrill of it all was seeing his success materialize right in front of us, with Isaac smiling the whole time. I love teaching.

Member Profile

Mark Shelton



I grew up in Modesto, CA, a few miles from the Tuolumne river. My dad didn't fish, but as a teacher with summers off, he took me fishing from about age 5. Our family camped in tents and campers and traveled around the U.S. and across Canada. Dad made sure the KOAs and other campgrounds had fishing access for my brother and me, or at least it seemed so, as we fished lots of rivers, ponds, lakes and ocean jetties and beaches. Besides fishing with my family and a couple of fishing buddies, our church had 2 ministers, both former athletes from Oklahoma, who each had fishing boats. I learned lots about bass fishing the San Joaquin valley lakes from these guys, and how to troll for trout and Kokanee. These became life-long family friends and I learned a ton from them.

I took up fly fishing at age 16 and was really excited to get my first fly rod, a 2-piece Fenwick Feralite 5wt with Pflueger

Medalist reel (still have these). I think the combo cost \$32 (1971 prices!) at Longs Drug store (former SLFF club member and friend, George Protsman, used to work at Longs and loved my story of the first fly rod). I taught myself how to cast by reading *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield* and *Outdoor Life* magazine articles, plus a few fishing books with casting photos. I bought a cheapo Thompson A fly tying vise and learned to tie some rudimentary dry flies for trout. For the first few years, I fly fished for bluegills and bass with deer hair and cork poppers on the Tuolumne and local lakes, plus trout fishing with dries in Sierra streams.

I attended the Univ. of Idaho to complete my B.S. degree in Entomology in 1977. My choice of this school followed a family camping trip to the Idaho panhandle, where I fished the St. Joe river, Coeur d' Alene and Benewah lakes. In Idaho, I fished lots of rivers and taught myself how to use wooly buggers and nymphs. After grad school in Indiana (fly fishing hiatus), Kathy and I moved to Corvallis, Oregon, where I resumed serious fishing, both with flies, and hardware (salmon) or bait (surf perch). When we moved to San Luis Obispo in 1982, I quickly realized there were few streams to fly fish, so I returned to bass fishing the local lakes, initially with spinning gear, then with flies. Former club Prez, Lew Leichter, invited me to speak to the club about streamer fishing in 2009. I saw how much fun this club was (meeting at Margie's Diner then) that I quickly joined. It's been fun to have quite a few SLFF clubbers on my little bass boat as we chase bass and panfish on our lakes. For the last 43 years I've expanded my fly fishing to Alaska (6 trips), Canada (~10 trips), New Zealand (4-month sabbatical), Baja, Chile, Ireland, and many U.S. states. I still love this sport and enjoy the friendship of many fishing friends in our club.

Member Presentations

Lew Leichter and Mark Shelton

For those of you that didn't attend our July 10th meeting you missed out on the reintroduction of our own members doing short programs on one their favorite fishing venues or trips. The meeting was cool with lots of questions and answers after each presentation. Members used a PowerPoint or a series of slides and each program was about 15 minutes.

We plan to schedule two of these next year and have selected our April 9th and October 8th meetings so we need six of you to raise your hands. At this time all we need is your name and the subject of your program.

Contact Mark Shelton or me to get on the list and thanks for participating.

Lew & Mark

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.



We'll have our special raffle with winners to be drawn on September 7th the day of our Fall Social (winners do not need to be present).

First prize will be a Dave Scadden Predator Lo Pro X (see picture below).

Second prize will be complete adjustable Tenkara Satoki kit.

Third prize will be one of Pat Jaeger's fish stick wading staff.

Tickets for the raffle will be \$25 each and are available to purchase on our website.

DAVE SCADDEN'S

Predator LO PRO X

Donated by Dave Scadden

Dave's Outlaw Predator Lo Pro X Ultra Lite proves the theory that less is more. Over 10 lbs less to be exact. Yes, that's right, 10 lbs less than the lightest pontoon boat made. The new Predator tips the scales under 20 pounds. The new Predator incorporates our exclusive new rigid inflated floor system which gives you the ability to stand and sight fish. It is fully equipped with Dave's rack and pinion oar system, breakaway footrest bar, seat, and gear bags. Add a lifetime warranty, the new Predator is ready to rock!



- Length: 8'
- Width: 48"
- Diameter: 14"
- Weight: 16 lbs.
- Weight Capacity: 700 lbs.
- Frame: Frameless
- Frame Material: Frameless
- Pontoon: Bladderless
- Oars: Alcoa 6061 T65
- Oar Locks: Rack & Pinion
- Seat: Portable EVA or Cushioned Plastic
- Rigid inflatable floor
- Breakaway footrest bar system
- Warranty: Lifetime

2025 Speaker Program Schedule Low Leichter and Mark Shelton

DATE	IP (IN PERSON) Z (ZOOM)	PRESENTER	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 FISHING WORK
DEC 11	IP	ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBER	

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/>

We have now secured five (5) campsites at the Sentinel Campground near the Lodge. This is the same cluster that worked so well last year.

If you are interested in joining this outing, please let me know ASAP.

etinglof19@gmail.com

417-861-0264



Port San Luis Halibut Fishing Outing, Saturday August 9, 2025

Roger Hammer

The morning started out foggy with an air temperature of 59° at 7:30 am, and the water temperature was about 64°. At that hour, there was ample parking just north of the Harford Pier for our six cars, although it looked like every fishing boat trailer spot was filled just to the south. People were on the water. By the time I arrived, four fly fishers plus our guide Bernard Pieters were on the scene gearing up. Members Eric Tinglof, Chris Rhoades, Rick Hill, Manouchehr Pouresmail and I, Roger Hammer, took advantage of this generous opportunity to be taught by Bernard who was helping rig up every beginning halibut fisherman with the proper leader and tippet setup and provided even the right fly to get us started. I began with 8' of intermediate poly leader followed by 9' of 10 lb. Maxima mono tippet. I fished a 10' 10" 6 weight switch rod with WF floating line. I liked fishing with a floating line in this case. Handling the long leader was no problem, as the stiffness of the poly and mono allowed for good turnover without wind knots despite the long leader. Bernard took the time to show the right knot to implement at all the connections, including a non-slip mono loop knot at the fly to allow for better action. I'm now committed to learning that knot. After nearly 50 years of flyfishing I should already know it, but I've spent most of those years fishing dries for trout on the Au Sable River in Michigan, where I moved from 2 years ago after retiring. For this fish, we used chartreuse and white Clouser Minnows. Three of us, with Bernard, wade fished just north of the pier on a small, nearly hidden pocket beach with only a few scattered rocks and plenty of room for back casting, without any concern for kids playing, dogs and joggers running behind us, or anyone asking if we were catching anything. Since he couldn't fish with his shoulder injury, Bernard was available to watch us individually and instruct step-by-step in order to make progress. After about an hour he said the water was too murky and the fish would have a hard time seeing those colors, so he gave me a yellow and red Clouser replacement fly. I'm confident in saying there is likely not another fly fisherman in the county who has logged more years successfully angling for halibut in Avila.

Another couple of hours went by without any detectable strikes or action from fish. I came without any expectation of catching a halibut or any other fish. I am new to saltwater flyfishing and just wanted to learn how to cast in the surf or nearshore and take advantage of opportunities near where I live now. If I lucked out and caught and landed something, I was just planning on releasing it. Bernard's rule of thumb is to keep the first good fish of the season, cook it up and enjoy eating it, then release the rest in order to sustain the fishery for years to come. If I catch another legal fish, I will

likely eat it too. On the Au Sable where I fished, it was catch and release only, and for good reason.

Low tide had occurred before we arrived at about 5 am, while the tide rose throughout the time we fished and peaked just before noon. The surf was very small in the tucked away protection of the breakwater and hillside where the beach we waded out from was situated. As I waded, I felt sea levels surge up to a foot higher with each swell – I was fishing hip deep and the water would rise to the top of my chest waders and drop back down to my hips. It wasn't strong enough to push me around, so I never felt like I'd be knocked off balance. The water was murky and filled with floating eel grass and other kelp and seaweed pieces, but the hook usually didn't come back fouled during the retrieve. I deliberately aimed my cast between clumps of obvious seaweed debris, and I think it may have helped that the hook of the fly floats upright with the weighted dumbbells instead of dredging the bottom.

Bernard was patient and ever-helpful with first timers like me and coached us on our cast and retrieve techniques. Once I hooked up, I got a good lesson on fighting a fairly good-sized and strong fish properly without lifting the rod too high, where I might break the tip. I lowered the rod to about a 45° angle and let the fish bend the whole pole. At first the fish didn't seem that big, but once I saw it, it seemed huge to me. Bernard said, "that one is legal, about 26 inches!" Bernard said the fish didn't realize it was hooked at first and just kind of let itself be led as it drifted on the surge with moderate pressure applied. I first hand stripped line in and then got it on the reel. My reel was only a medium sized freshwater reel for a 5-6 weight fly line. (I have an 8-weight saltwater flyrod and reel that is rigged with sinking line for targeting Surfperch.)

As I coaxed the "but" into shore and past me up onto the sand it bolted from the shallows with a power run to about 5 yards offshore. I then knew that fish could have its way with me unless I tired it out. Bernard said these fish will rarely surge more than 5-10 yards per run. This in and out process of beaching the fish occurred 5-6 times until Bernard thought it wiser to net the fish as the hook would eventually wear an opening big enough for the hook to pull out with each repetition of fighting the fish in, then have it do a flip turn and run back out. Bernard positioned himself offshore and the next time it ran back out swiftly got the flatfish in the net, which was ample sized itself it seemed, but the fish only fit part way in it. With the size and weight of the fish and his rotator cuff injury he couldn't lift the net up and grasp the fish and press it against his chest like he usually would. At that point we said aloha to the fish, which was totally fine by me. We all had great looks at the fish. I felt its power and Bernard felt its heft. How satisfying. Bernard repeated some of his mantras-it's not about the numbers, it's about the pursuit, about the precision of technique and intent. Never lose focus, you'll miss the fish.

I made changes throughout the morning that may have resulted in me getting lucky. First, it was now prime time, almost at the peak of high tide and the water had begun to clear a little bit. Next, I concentrated on shortening my cast, from as far as I could throw the line to about 70%, and then I practiced absolute line control with concentration. I also stripped slower and paused more and lifted deliberately before starting the back cast. Often times, that will be the action that triggers a strike. Lastly, he suggested I strip through 2 fingers (my thumb and index fingers) for increased sensitivity instead of just pulling over my middle finger. Takes can be very subtle, just a slow ambush of a few inches to intercept the fly and a settling back to the bottom by a lazy fish instead of a grab and turn. At first the fish didn't know it was hooked as I guided it toward shore. I fished a single fly rig but will go double next time in order to assure at least one fly is in the target zone. As it was, I counted to 20 seconds after casting to allow my fly to sink to the bottom in about 6 feet of water before I began to strip. I would strip about fifteen 2" pulls in a row then pause and gently lift my rod and repeat. On one of the last of these sequences before picking up my line and casting again, I slowly lifted and felt resistance which I thought could have been coincident with the outgoing surge of tide, but no! The throbbing oscillations of a hooked fish are unmistakable. That's when I called to Bernard that I had one hooked.

Just after noon we all made our way out of the water and back to our cars. The fog had lifted, the sun was out, and my car said it was now 70°. The beaches were crowded, and beachgoers were trolling for parking spaces. Eric and Chris had used a float tube and pontoon boat respectively, to explore more water. I was especially impressed with Eric using special turbo fins and kicking all the way to the breakwater and back without a cramp. He self-propelled for more than a mile and didn't seem too tired. Although they didn't experience any hookups or hits, Bernard surmised that it could have been that the boats were constantly moving. In addition to line retrieving, the fly may have been moving too fast and perhaps at the wrong depth to entice a fish. In fact, Chris returned the next day and floated again all the way to the breakwater, catching two halibut, including one that was legal size. All in all, it was a great trip and I'm looking forward to going next year while trying it on my own now.



The Magazine for California Fly Fishers

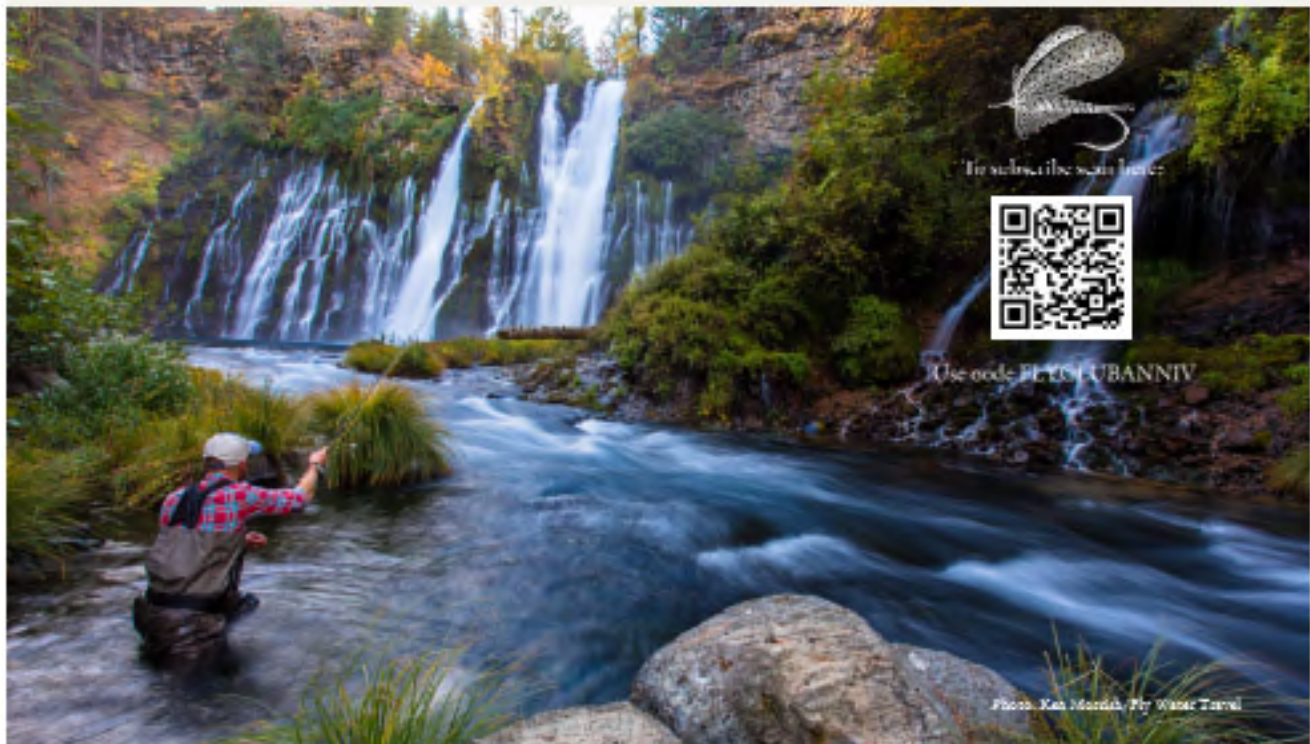
For more than three decades, *California Fly Fisher* has been the go-to publication for anglers who care about California's fisheries, wild trout, and the craft of fly fishing.

To mark their one-year relaunch anniversary, *California Fly Fisher* is offering **club members an exclusive subscription discount—plus 10% off all merchandise**

Don't miss an issue. Subscribe *Today!*



@cal.fly.fisher | calflyfisher.com



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	lleichter@hotmail.com
June 22 - 26	Manzanita Lake	Bernard Pieters	bpieters84@gmail.com
June 22 - June 28	Lake Almanor	Lew Leichter	lleichter@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	



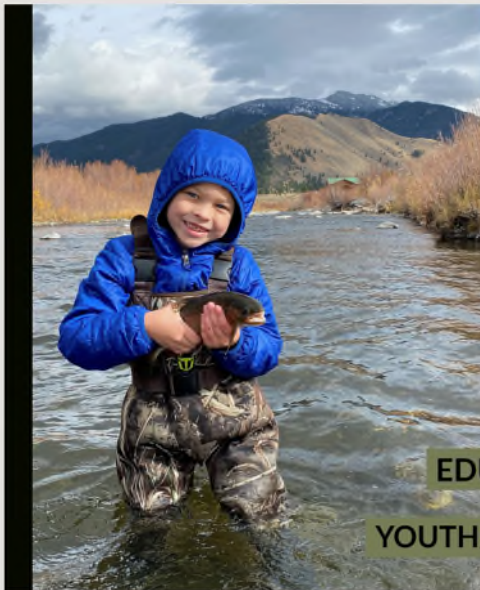
FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

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

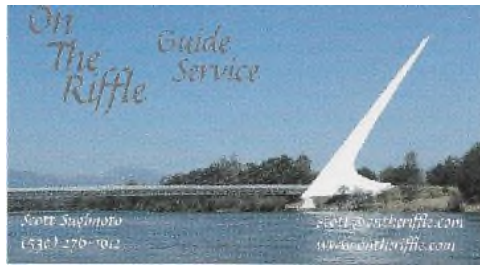
An individual regular membership is \$45.00 per year for 12 months (January through December).

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:



Sierra Drifters Guide Service



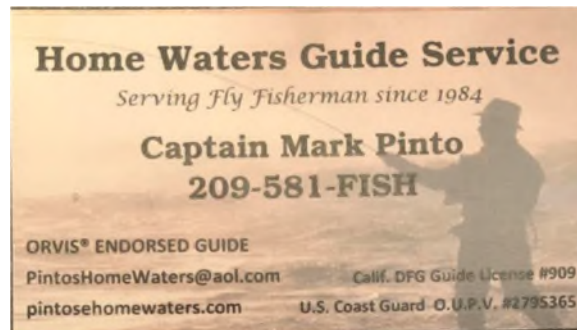
www.sierradrifters.com
sierradriftersgs@gmail.com

Fly Fishing
Mammoth Lakes, CA

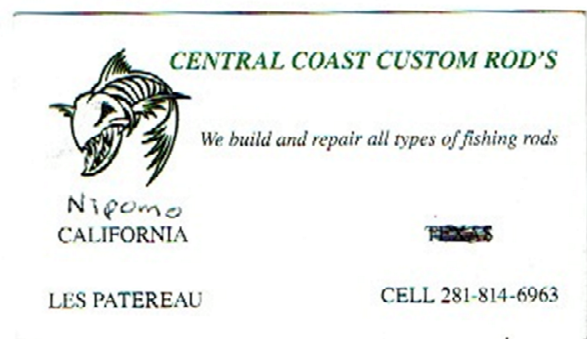
Doug Rodricks
Owner/Operator

Phone: (760) 935-4250
Cell: (818) 264-5570





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