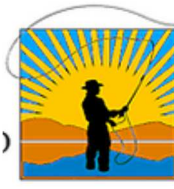


FINNY FACTS



Archive Version

San Diego Fly Fishers

September 2018 Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing **Volume 41 No. 9**



This Month's Speaker Conway Bowman

Conway Bowman is one of the most noticeable brands in the fishing industry today. Why does Ford Motor Company use Conway Bowman as their outdoor/fishing spokesman? Because he is a legit born and bred California outdoorsman who not only has West Coast appeal but is recognized and respected globally as a

household name in the outdoor/fishing world.

An accomplished all-around adventurer, fisherman and waterman, Conway Bowman's name is synonymous with "extreme" fly fishing. For Conway, home base is Encinitas, CA where he guides for blue water species on the fly – most notably the fast and ferocious Mako shark.

As the TV host of three highly rated and award-winning television series "The Ford Outfitters", "Fly Fishing the World" on Sportsman Channel and "Fifty Places to Fly-Fish Before You Die" on the World Fishing Network.

Conway has traveled from the remote beaches of Baja California to the humid jungles of Thailand in search of all kinds of wild fishing adventures. His escapades have led him to hook a wide variety of

fish. This includes Atlantic and King salmon, wild trout, carp, tuna, largemouth bass, muskee, pike, sailfish, Golden dorado, redfish, bonefish, roosterfish, Thai mahseer, British Columbia steelhead, striped bass, Royal snakehead and tarpon. He currently holds the IGFA World Record for redfish: 41.65 lbs., caught on the fly. Conway is also the author of "The Guide to Beginning Saltwater Fly Fishing."

When not searching for his next adventure, Conway can be found taking his 7 year old son Maximilian surfing, spear fishing or fishing with his wife Michelle in their home waters of Encinitas, California. His time on shore is now occupied by his son Jackson, the newest addition to the Bowman family.



September Schedule

Every Thursday– Fly Tying at San Carlos Recreation Center 6:30-8:00

September 4th– 9:30-11am at ASPIRE in Old Town- Fly Tying

September 15th- Open Classroom– Santee Lakes meet at 9am- Fishing

September 18th– 9:30-11am at ASPIRE in Old Town- Fly Tying

Thanks for the generous Support.



Young girl with her fish at the Young Anglers Fishing Tournament. Several SDFF Members helped out.

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Next Program
 Monday, September 10th 7pm
 Southwestern Yacht Club

Cut-off date for the **October** Finny Facts is **Friday, September 14, 2018.** Send submissions to Alan Thompson at finnyfacts@gmail.com

Members, welcome to September.

In review, the recent weekend event with the Arizona Fly Casters was a complete success. I thank the AFC members and our volunteers who worked so hard. Plenty of fish took the fly on San Diego Bay and many lessons were "experienced" on the surf. I look forward to next year. The October trip to the San Juan is coming together. It looks like eight of us will join the Arizona Fly Casters on this adventure. If you are interested, time is running short.

As I send this message, we are working on another club fishing outing. Plans are working for a club fishing event at Otay Lakes. We are looking at Saturday, 29 September. Food and beverage will be served. If you want to participate in a club outing...get off the couch.

We are still looking for volunteers for key positions in our club; chair for the annual fundraiser and our representative to the IFF.

Be an "active" member...raise your hand. Weather is great...get out and fish.

Tight lines,
Larry



**The Indicator
E-mailed
Containing:
Updates;
late breaking
Information;
and
Timely reminders**

**Fly Tying Congress
Every Thursday 6:30-8:30 PM**

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at San Carlos Recreation Center at 6445 Lake Badin Ave. in San Diego. Instruction to create your own fly is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--From Interstate 8 take the Lake Murray off-ramp and drive toward Lake Murray. Travel on Lake Murray Blvd. for 1.6 miles and turn left at Lake Adlon Drive (1st corner past Jackson Drive). Go three blocks and the Recreation Center will be on your right.

Weekend Event with the Arizona Fly Casters in Pictures (page 1)

Thursday Night Fly Tying at San Carlos Rec. Ctr.



August 2nd found the San Carlos room at the San Carlos Rec Center filled to capacity. Members from San Diego Fly Fishers and Arizona Fly Caster held a joint fly tying session prior to fishing the Big Bay. Pizza and soda was provided. *Submitted by Paul Woolery*

Friday Fishing at Tidelands Park, San Diego Bay



An absolutely beautiful morning on San Diego Bay as members of Arizona Fly Casters join San Diego Fly Fishers for a successful time of catching fish followed by a breakfast prepared by **Lars Sorensen** and **Paul Woolery**. *Photos by Mike Gilroy.*

Weekend Event with the Arizona Fly Casters in Pictures (page)

Saturday Surf Fishing at South Mission Beach



Saturday saw both clubs hitting South Mission Beach and after a brief lesson from **Steve Piper** we were ready to hit the water. There were fish seen in the water and they stayed there not taking any of our offerings. After fishing, we were treated to an outstanding BBQ brunch/lunch by **Dale Costanzo**. Great job, everyone. Photos by **Mike Gilroy**.

Upcoming Fly Fishing Opportunities

The following are Fly Fishing trips and Outings that are available to all members.

NEW-

Saturday, September 29th at 6AM to noon.

What: Fly Fishing and BBQ at Lower Otay Lake

Your Club is planning to hold a day of fly fishing on the fabled Lower Otay Lake. Lower Otay is an excellent fishery and holds a lot of big bass, and feisty bluegill.

We need to gauge the level of interest for this event to see if we will get a decent level of participation. Please respond by email at: outings@SanDiegoflyfishers.com.

Details: We hope to have a couple of Club members who know the lake to offer a brief clinic/tips session around 0630.

You can fish from shore, float tube, kayak, pontoon, or power boat. If you are going to be in the water, you must wear waders.

Fees: The Lake charges fees for launching a boat and for fishing. There is a pay station, but you should bring exact change (\$bills). The fee for launching a boat is \$7.00. Fishing fee is \$8.00. Boats are also available to rent. Go to the Lakes website for the fees.

<https://www.sandiego.gov/water/recreation/reservoirs/lowerotay>

October 19-24

YOU MUST RESERVE A SPOT NOW.

Join **Larry Sorensen** as he leads a group to Arizona where we will be overnight guests of the **Arizona Fly Casters**. Then it's on to the fabulous **San Juan River** in **New Mexico** for 3 days of fishing. Lodging is available and you must contact **Larry** asap.

Member surveys indicated that you want more club sponsored fishing trips. We have listened.

Gearing up for Inshore Saltwater Fly Fishing

By Craig Smith

The San Diego coastline offers excellent inshore fly angling from late spring through fall for species like bonito, barracuda, mackerel, yellowtail, white sea bass, and calico bass. For this discussion I consider Inshore waters to be areas primarily within five miles of the beach that are reachable with smaller boats and even kayaks. To fly fish ocean inshore waters successfully you need the right gear for the task. Fortunately, a wide range of products fall under that category of “right gear” and you don’t need to spend a fortune.

Fly Rods:

A fly rod matched with an appropriate fly line for conditions and flies you will be fishing is your principle tool. Rods ranging from 8 wt. to 10 wt. rods will cover typical conditions. Rods at 9 feet long are the most versatile. However, due to the leverage advantage of shorter rods, lengths of 7.5 to 8 feet can be very useful when fishing near cover like kelp or jetties. The shorter rods can help pulling calico bass from kelp or away from rocky structure. While graphite rods have been the standard for saltwater fly fishing for almost 40 years, there has been a resurgence in popularity of fiberglass and there are a number of models available today that are designed for saltwater angling. A 9 wt. rod is a good all-around choice for inshore fishing. It will handle fast sinking lines and the flies that are typically used and the majority of fish encountered. It has enough muscle for most of the fish you will encounter though it may be a bit light if you run into a larger yellowtail or a 10 lb. calico bass around kelp. An 8 wt. is a good choice too and a bit lighter to cast all day. I have caught a lot of fish with an 8 wt., including yellowtail up to 7 lbs. A 10 wt. rod is the tool to use when casting the largest flies for calico bass or chasing larger yellowtail. A 7 wt. rod, or even a 6 wt. if you are adventurous can be just the ticket to fun when mackerel are around.

Fly Reels:

Fly reels should hold at least 100 yards of backing plus your fly line and have a disc drag system. The drag system can be of



either sealed or open type. Anglers fished saltwater for decades before sealed drag reels arrived and many high-end reels made today do not have sealed drags. Suitable reels can be found for less than \$150, or you can spend 5 to 10 times that. Check with your local fly shop, friends, or on the internet for recommended reels. Regardless of the price of a reel, I strongly recommend that you clean it after every usage in saltwater. A thorough maintenance regimen will lead to a longer lifespan for your reels. If your reel does not have a sealed drag and gets completely submerged in the saltwater consider disassembling, cleaning, and lubricating the reel, following the manufacturer’s maintenance recommendations. As of this writing (summer 2018) the Redington Behemoth reel is an example of an affordable (compared to more costly reels) option with a very good drag at \$110 for the 7/8 model and \$130 for the 9/10 model. These reels are among the few at this price point actually designed for this type of fly angling.

Fly Lines:

Fishing inshore areas, including kelp beds, can involve working the water column from the surface down to 50 feet deep. Effectively working this range of depths

requires multiple fly lines. However, you can cover most inshore conditions with one or two fly lines.

Floating lines can be useful when fishing poppers and other topwater patterns for calico bass, bonito, and mackerel and cost from \$40 to \$120. You do not need a specialized saltwater taper line for our local waters: a regular weight forward line will work just fine.

An intermediate sinking fly line which sinks at 1-2 inches per second can be used for near surface presentations. An intermediate line can also be used to fish topwater patterns. When used with a fast retrieve the line will remain near the surface. Many anglers also find intermediate lines easier to cast in the stronger winds we face when we get out on the ocean. Intermediate lines retail from \$40 to \$100.

-continue on next page

Gearing up for Inshore Saltwater Fly Fishing *continued*

By Craig Smith

Continued from previous page

Integrated shooting taper lines have a 24-30 foot fast sinking section factory mated to a thin floating or intermediate (slow) sinking running line. If rigging up with an integrated shooting taper line sized in grains, get one that matches your rod and has a sink rate of at least 4 inches per second. Generally, a 250 grain line will match well with a 7 wt., a 300 grain with an 8 wt. rod, 350 grain with a 9 wt., and 400 grain with a 10 wt. Depending on your casting skill you may be comfortable using a heavier or lighter line on your rod. There are also integrated shooting taper lines with intermediate (slow) sinking heads. The advantage of using an integrated shooting taper line over a full sinking weight forward line is that the integrated shooting head line will be easier to cast for distance. The major fly line makers such as Rio, Scientific Anglers, Orvis, AirFlo, and Cortland market integrated shooting taper lines suitable for the ocean. These lines retail from around \$55 to \$100. Some integrated shooting taper lines that are labeled like a regular fly line instead of in grains on the box. Examples are the Rio Outbound Short and the Scientific Anglers Titan Taper. These lines should be matched to the rod using the label on the line box. For example, an 8 wt. Rio Outbound Short line would be matched to an 8wt rod.

A full length sinking line can be used in the ocean. When choosing a full sinking weight forward line, I recommend going up two lines sizes. For instance, use a WF-10-S line on an 8 wt. rod. The first 30 feet of a WF-8 line will weigh 280 grains, so it would load the rod about same as a 300 grain integrated shooting taper line. The rod will not be overloaded and the line will cast much better for you. The primary benefit of a full sinking line is that they cost less compared to integrated shooting taper lines against a tradeoff of being a bit more difficult to cast. Full sinking lines retail from \$40 to \$60. The costlier versions usually have a density compensated tip (sometimes called a uniform sink line) that sinks a bit faster than the rest of the line. In deeper waters the density compensated tip ensures that the fatter belly section of the line does not

sink below the tip section and the fly, which makes strike detection more difficult. Full length sinking lines can be found with different sink rates. Lines with a sink rate of 4 inches per second or faster are good options.

If I were to have only one line for the ocean it would be an integrated shooting taper line that matches my rod. If limited to two lines, the second one would be an intermediate sinking line.

Leaders:

There is no need for expensive tapered leaders except for when using floating lines. Just use 4' to 8' of 8 to 20lb. test nylon monofilament or fluorocarbon monofilament when using sinking lines. I have not found any difference in catch rates between nylon mono or fluorocarbon mono (yes, Fluorocarbon is a monofilament – 1 strand) when working our local inshore waters. Fluorocarbon may provide some durability advantages with respect to abrasion resistance but I have not found that to be significant in the open ocean waters for inshore species. For presentations with floating lines I will use a 7.5' to 8' tapered leader with a 12 lb. to 20 lb. tippet. There are some saltwater or big game leaders that have heavy butt sections and cast poppers nicely as will most OX trout leaders. Wire bite tippets can help keep your flies from being bitten off when barracuda are present. I prefer flexible coated braided steel wire that you can tie knots with. Tyger Wire and American Fishing Wire have great products. To connect the wire to your leader's class tippet (the weak part at the end of the leader), attach a small high-quality barrel swivel to your main leader with a palomar knot. Connect six inches of wire to the swivel with a figure eight-knot and connect the fly to the wire with a two turn non-slip mono loop knot or a figure-eight knot. You can also purchase pre-made leaders that have a wire bite-tippet. Some even have a metal snap at the end to make fly changes simple. We often find we get fewer bites when wire is used. As an alternative you can make a bite tippet from 4 to 6 inches of 30 to 50 lb. hard monofilament line. Connect the heavy mono bite tippet to the class tippet using a suitable knot. There are a number of good knots

developed for connecting a thick bite tippet to thinner class tippet. I like the Slim Beauty knot but you may find you prefer a different knot. Look up some knots and try them out to see what you find easiest to use. The fly can be connected to the heavy bite tippet with a two or three turn non-slip mono loop knot.

Flies:

Flies from about 2 to 8 inches long and can be bulky or slim. These will be tied on hook sizes 6 through 3/0. We are looking for flies to imitate anchovies, smelt, sardines, small mackerel, and other baitfish. Clouser minnows, Lefty's deceivers, and a host of other patterns that imitate baitfish, squid, or even pelagic crabs work well. For topwater presentations foam poppers, crease flies, and gurglers will take calico bass, mackerel, and bonito. The best all-around sizes will be from 3 to 5 inches long and tied on size 2 through 1/0 hooks but I recommend having a few small flies that are only 1.5-2" for those times when predators are focused on small bait. I usually only go to larger flies when targeting calico bass, plenty of bass have been caught on this range of sizes. If you are going to be fishing around kelp for calico bass I strongly recommend finding some flies that have weed/snag guards. Very few commercially available saltwater baitfish patterns with guards are available. You may need to tie your own or get someone else to produce some custom flies for you. You can also add guards to flies that do not have them built in.

Ancillary Gear:

You will be fishing from a boat so a stripping bucket/basket will help prevent line tangles and keep the line from getting snagged on stuff in the boat. Good commercially made stripping baskets cost from about \$50 to \$80. You can make a serviceable basket for less than \$15. Plenty of examples can be found online with an internet search. Be sure to incorporate some sort of spikes, cones, or posts into the bottom. This will help keep coils of line from tangling.

-continued on page 8

Volunteers in Action



Left— Wearing their distinctive blue SDFD shirts at the Youth Fishing Tournament at Shelter Island are **Lars Sorensen, Lee McElravy, Paul Woolery, Lew Walsh**. *Right*— Construction of the new fish raising pen for Lake Cuyamaca has **Paul Woolery and Gary Strawn** braving the elements by dodging lightning bolts and rain.

Volunteer Opportunities



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is our ongoing commitment to the veterans of our country who have suffered physical and/or mental injuries while protecting all of us. See page one for dates and times.



Trout in the Classroom is returning as local students are returning to school at the beginning of a new school year. This program has grown by leaps and bounds as new schools have been signing up for this great program. You will be rewarded with enormous smiles by happy students.

California's Golden Trout Wilderness

Gary Strawn will lead a team of volunteers as they work to take down the cattle exclusion fence that protects the sensitive meadows. This is scheduled for the weekend of September 28th. Contact Gary for more details.

Future Events

The poster features a green background with a pattern of orange and red fish. At the top, it reads "SOUTHWEST COUNCIL" in white. Below that, "2018" is written in large white numbers. A white banner with red text says "FLY FISHING FAIRE". To the right, "Glendale Civic Auditorium" and "October 20-21" are written in white. At the bottom, "FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL" is written in white. On the left, there is a logo for Fly Fishers International Southwest Council, which includes a globe icon and the text "FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL Southwest Council".

Continued from page 6

Keep a hook sharpener handy. I check my hook's point when I tie a fly to the leader, get hung up on a rock or piece of kelp, and periodically during and outing and touch up the point as needed. I prefer to use non-stainless steel hooks for flies I tie as they are easier to sharpen on the water. Many of the best quality hooks are not stainless steel – they are coated with a nickel compound or some other protective coating. I rinse my flies in freshwater after an outing. Even flies tied on bronze hooks will last few out-

ings if rinsed after use. A pair of forceps (hemostats) or needle nose pliers will help with hook removal. Pliers can double as a line cutter and can be used to crimp barbs if you forgot to do it before you left home.

A long-handled net can help landing and controlling of fish for a quick release. Many anglers are not aware of the following excerpt from the California salt-water fishing regulations, section 28.65 (d): *"No person shall take finfish from any boat or other floating device in ocean waters without having a landing*

net in possession or available for immediate use to assist in landing undersize fish of species having minimum size limits; the opening of any such landing net shall be not less than eighteen inches in diameter."

Don't forget to wear a Personal Floation Device (PFD). I always wear an inflatable PFD when on the ocean. It does not interfere with fishing and means I won't have to swim until exhausted if I fall in. I have never fallen in but I have been on small boats where others fell in.

Eastern Sierra Report from Sierra Drifters

Fish'N Conditions 8/10/18

Smoke and scorching temperatures have been the norm for most of the state this summer season. We have been lucky to have comfortable temperatures and moderate smokey conditions compared to some places. The air quality has improved drastically here over the last week and the fishing conditions for most areas has been fine.

Bridgeport Reservoir has a mix of fish sizes currently and the inside of the Buckeye Channel is starting to get weeded up. There is still plenty of room to fish in the channel as the creek gets further into the reservoir.

The East Walker River water temps have been warm which has slowed down the fishing here some. It's best to hit it here in the mornings and late afternoons. Cooler nighttime temperatures have arrived now, which should bring the water temps back

to more comfortable conditions for the trout.

The San Joaquin River is fishing well for wild trout taking dry flies and small nymphs. Getting away from the campgrounds is best as fishing pressure can be high there.

Hot Creek has been decent at the Interpretive Center and in the canyon. Choosing the right flies can make or break your day here.

Upper Owens River good for numbers below the bridge and cleaner water above the bridge has been holding the occasional larger fish.

Crowley Lake has fish working the perch fry hard over the weeds in all areas of the lake. Selecting a good perch fry imitation has been the key to success here the past week.

The Middle Owens River flows are very high and will be for an extended period as Crowley Lake begins to drop its level quickly.



We need your help getting rid of Carp!



CARP ANGLERS WANTED, CONVENTIONAL ROD AND REEL, SPEAR, OR BOW

- KILL A CARP and FISH FOR FREE!
- KILL A CARP and TENT CAMP FOR FREE!
- KILL A CARP, PROOF REQUIRED!

LAKE CUYAMACA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

KILL A CARP!

FREE INTERMEDIATE FLY CASTING 1st and 3rd Sundays at 8am Ski Beach, Mission Bay Park

John Wylie and I (Dennis Panish) are teaching free intermediate fly casting lessons on the first and third Sunday of every month down at Ski Beach Mission Bay. Lessons start at 8 am and run about an hour. I recently received my Casting Instructor certification from FFI. This is open to all SDFP members including beginners and intermediate fly casters.

Funny Page

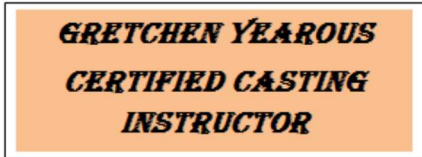


FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY starting at 9 AM

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors. DIRECTIONS--Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Make a left and continue to the parking lot next to the boat dock. We are to the immediate right of docks under the large cabana. See you there!

Fundraiser Sponsors

A special thank you to our Sponsors . Please Support them with your business



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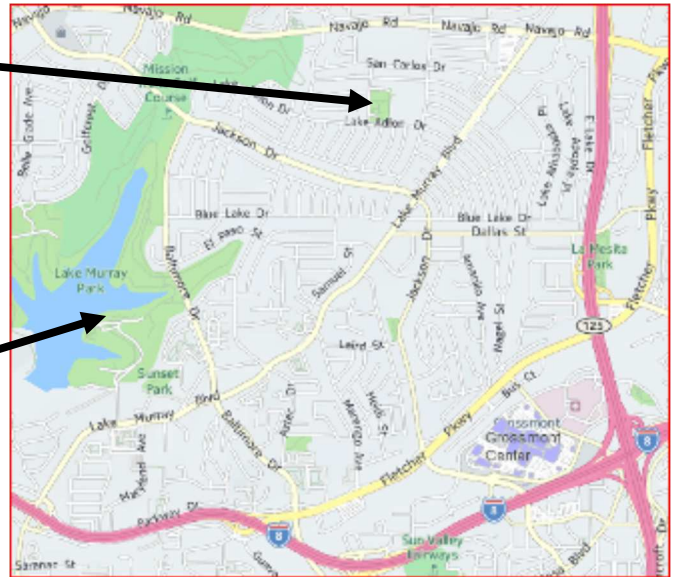
Wesley Woll
 675 S. Sierra Ave. Unit 25
 Solana Beach, CA 92075
 858-481-6386 858-395-9479 cell

Fly Tying Congress
 Thursdays 6:30-8:30

San Carlos Rec. Ctr.
 6445 Lake Badin Ave.
 San Diego, CA 92119

Fly Casting Clinic
 Every Sunday 9 to noon.

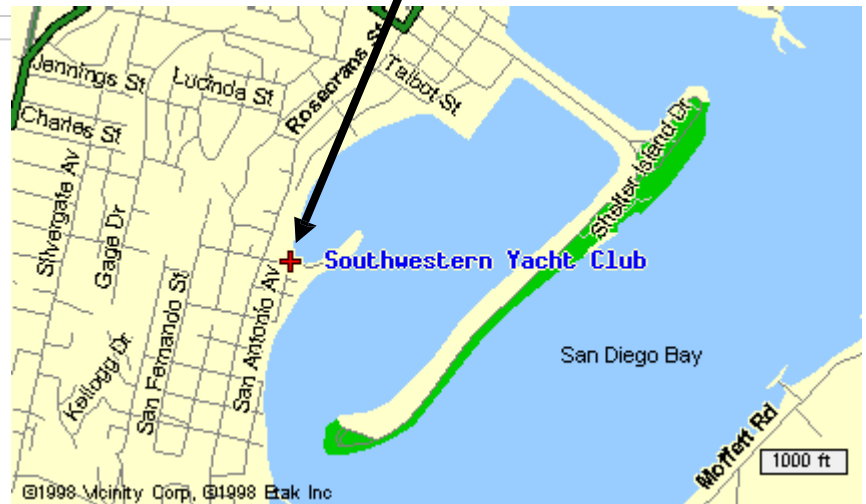
Lake Murray
 Kiowa Dr.
 San Diego, CA 92119



Monthly Programs

First Monday
 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Southwestern Yacht Club
 2702 Qualtrough Street
 San Diego, CA 92106



**Affiliate Club of the
 Fly Fishers International**

Since 1962

Directions from Highway 8 (traveling West) or Interstate 5 (traveling South)

Take Rosecrans exit West to Owen Street
 Turn Left on Owen Street, drive 1 block to San Antonio
 Turn Left on San Antonio, drive 2 blocks
 Turn right onto Qualtrough and follow to SWYC entryway at end of street.

Southwestern Yacht Club
 2702 Qualtrough Street
 San Diego, CA 92106
 (619)222-0438