



## SPEAKER PROFILE: Advanced Nymphing Techniques with Jason Randall

The recent innovations in nymphing techniques – Czech, Polish, Spanish, French – can leave you feeling confused and nostalgic for the days when an indicator, a split shot and a nymph were all you needed. The European “tight line” systems, derived from competitive angling, are surprisingly simple and effective in our local waters. New contact techniques focus on getting the flies to the strike zone and improving strike detection, but do you know when and how to use each method? Our April program discusses these new methods but also offers improved strategies for flotation style indicators. To help us demystify all this, we welcome back Jason Randall.

Jason has been an outdoor writer for the last fifteen years with feature articles appearing regularly in American Angler, as well as Fly Fisherman, Eastern Fly Fishing, Northwest Fly Fishing and many other outdoor magazines.

Jason was born in Morris, Illinois, a small rural town in the north-central part of the state. His father introduced him to fishing, hunting and camping and his growing love of the outdoors led Jason to become an Eagle Scout when he was just 15.

*(cont on pg 3)*

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### RAFFLE ITEMS FOR APRIL'S DINNER MEETING

1st Prize -

TFO Casting for Recovery Rod 9 ft, 8 wt, 4 pcs

2nd Prize -

**Choice of one**

TFO Prism 5/6 reel

or

C3La 9/10 reel with two spools

Big Barrel-

Book

One dozen flies and box

Sun gloves

Balaclava

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Conservation and education lie at the heart of our Club. Of course it's fun to attend the dinner meetings, meet new friends and win the occasional raffle prize but, as a Foundation, our mission is to attract new members and teach them about our great sport. This year's ITFF (Introduction To Fly Fishing) attracted around 40 students who found us, not through Facebook or other social media, but via the old fashioned method of talking to a Club member – imagine that. We had a great turnout of volunteers in the casting, knot tying, special presentations and set-up teams. I can't thank you all enough for your efforts – it was a proud moment for our Club. The payback of seeing students finally catch a fish was reserved for the twelve onstream instructors who attended the graduation in Bishop. I am hopeful that the new crop of graduates will become Club members – it's still the best deal in town.

Last month we experimented with moving the annual auction/fundraiser to March since the attendance was so poor in September. We also put the focus on higher quality items rather than a grab bag of smaller offerings – this greatly speeded up the set-up and checkout process. Overall, the results were mixed. I am happy to report that we generated about \$7400 but there were many empty seats at the dinner tables. At this point, the Board is wrestling with how to attract more members to the event. Do you want a different month? More lifestyle items? More online bidding? Please let a Board member know your thoughts on how we can do better.



In April I make my annual trek to Ascension Bay, South of Cancun, Mexico. This has become something of a regular event for many Club members, now addicted to the sight of bonefish tails and the adrenalin rush of permit sightings. This year we welcome Board members Mike Hembre and Kevin Radanovich to the group – I can't wait to get you on the flats. Closer to home Jim Fleisher has put together some outings. Check our calendar for upcoming outings – we are taking signups for Hot Creek and a new bass fishing outing to Kelsey Ranch – for details on these you can email Jim Fleisher at [outings@spff.org](mailto:outings@spff.org). As usual we are always hungry for stories and pictures for the newsletter – our new editors Glenn Short and student Vicky Vargas can only do so much without help from the members. Ever wondered how the top Club executives make decisions at the Board meetings? You are always welcome to attend – we meet at The Horseless Carriage on Rosco at Sepulveda on the 1st Thursday of the month. Let me know if you can make it.

*Marshall*

## DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Marshall Bissett	818-259-1551
Vice President	(Open)	
Community Relations	Michael Peratis	818-645-6031
Conservation	Debbie Sharpton	805-338-8278
Recording Secretary	John Roberts	818-512-4617
Education	Steve Ebersold	818-340-5382
Education	Gary Pintar	661-993-8663
Librarian	Tom Wright	818-367-8827
Membership	Jay Bushore	818-970-4685
Newsletter Editor	Vicky Vargas	
Newsletter Circulation	Richard Ress	818-783-8648
Outings	Jim Fleisher	818-990-4921
Programs	Marshall Bissett	818-259-1551
Raffles	Steve Esgate	818-723-5122
Special Projects	Glenn Short	818-219-9060
Fundraising	Kevin Radanovich	818-421-2044
Treasurer	Mike Hembre	818-368-8177
Webmaster	Ren Colantoni	818-842-0389
Technical Assistant	Aran Dokovna	661-296-7633
SWCFF Representative	Tom Wright	818-367-8827
Social Media	Richard Plunkett	818-970-8860
Member at Large	Don Lee	818-990-0248

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

*By: Jay Bushore, Membership Chair*

The members of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers look forward to meeting you. We hope to get to know you better at the monthly Dinner Meetings, in our educational programs and on the water. SPFF always welcomes new members.

*Members, please introduce yourselves to our new members at our monthly dinner meetings and make them feel welcome!*

**Nathanael Prunet  
Odin Leberman**

## SPEAKER PROFILE (cont.)

He attended veterinary school at the University of Illinois, served in the Army and then moved to Woodstock to start his practice. He is not only a veterinarian, but a veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine. He is also a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and the Society for Freshwater Science.

Jason picked up a fly rod in 1983, but with no guidance or instruction, became frustrated with fly fishing and casting and didn't handle a fly rod again for almost a decade. It was, during a Colorado vacation, that a friend suggested they go fly fishing. Fortunately they hired a guide who gave them casting instruction and solid, accurate advice. After these brief, though valuable lessons, Jason proceeded to catch several native trout and this experience, says Jason, hooked him on fly fishing for life. And "hook him" is an understatement.

Jason proceeded to not only study and learn fly fishing, achieving great success as thoroughly and quickly as few others have, but he also became adept at communicating the knowledge he gained. For the last twelve years, he has been an outdoor writer with feature articles appearing regularly in American Angler, Fly Fisherman, Eastern Fly Fishing, Northwest Fly Fishing and many other outdoor magazines.

In 2012, Stackpole/Headwater books released Jason's first book, *Moving Water: A Fly Fisher's Guide to Currents*. This book studies and explains the effect of current on trout, their prey species and presentation, where vertical layers of current create drag and requires adjustments to improve nymph fishing success.

Jason's second book *Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat*, was released in August of 2013. This valuable book focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout's feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout.

And in 2014, the third book in his publisher's "Fly Fisher's Guide" trilogy was released -- *Trout Sense: A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell*, which offers anglers an opportunity to know more about the quarry they seek.

In 2017, Jason joined Luminaries Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser, Ed Jaworowski and many others on the TFO National Advisory Team. In 2017-18, Jason will appear and present at shows, clubs and events throughout the North America.

To learn more about this bright, professional and accomplished fly fisher (and fish-whisperer), go to: [www.jrflyfishing.com](http://www.jrflyfishing.com)





## FLY TYING CLASS OF 2018

The 2018 Fly Tying Course has been completed, and we have ten new tyers to add to our ranks (see photo). Front row, right to left are Ron Ress, Patrick Uchino, Alfredo Diana, Jamie Schulz, and Debra Hetrick, in the back row are Michael Twomey, Wayne Foglesong, Kris Skinner, Robert Harding, and Doug Dorflinger. Each of the tyers learned how to attach feather and fur to create flies that catch fish. Did I say they catch fish? Yes, they do catch fish, just ask Ron Ress, who proudly told fish stories about the fish he caught on the Super Bowl Outing with flies he learned in the class. It doesn't get better than this, except when you catch a fish on a rod that you built (class to come). The flies taught during the course are basic flies—the building blocks of fly tying. An unofficial class continues throughout the year on most Wednesdays where simple emergers, sophisticated nymphs, sturdy streamers, stimulating dry flies, and spectacular salt water flies are demonstrated by guest tyers. We'd love to have you join us—we have a good time. We are a volunteer club and this year's class could not have happened without Michael Peratis demonstrating how to tie flies, with the aid of the following instructors to help the students along: Pat Cates, John Roberts, Gene Mahn, Bill Luddy, Ed Stimson, Chris Taylor, Dan Liggett, David Hoffberg, Norm Willis, Rich Ress, Jack Jonathon, Jim Fleisher and Bill Woods. I thank you all for sharing your precious time.

—Gary Pintar



HAPPY SMILES FROM OUR 2018 BEGINNING FLY TYING CLASS GRADUATES

# ITFF COLLAGE BY ELLIE BRITTAIN

## "ITFF" INTRODUCTION TO FLY CASTING CLASS - 2018

Photos & Collage by Ellie Brittain



### FOUR EASY STEPS



# Fishing the Test River, England

## Fishing the Test River, England at the End of a Great Family Vacation

by Howard Rosen



My wife Carol and I have, for many years, arranged annual vacations with our two daughters and their families. We've gone to Calgary, Maui, San Diego, Sunriver (Oregon), and Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan in Mexico. (Yes, we like Mexico!)

But 2017 was special, celebrating our 50th anniversary in August. So, a special vacation was in order! A cousin worked for Princess cruise lines, and we took advantage of the "Friends and Family" rate to book cabins on a mid-summer cruise around the British Isles.

Getting to and from Europe takes time and money. We all decided to take advantage of already being over there. One daughter, her husband and our 2 grandsons spent 10 days in Paris and Barcelona, then met us in Southampton to join us on the cruise. After the cruise, our other daughter and her husband flew off to Berlin for a week.



Carol and I... well, we enjoyed several days as tourists in London before boarding the ship. And afterward, following club-mate Smoother Smyth's advice, we headed to the lovely town of Salisbury in southern England (famous for its wonderful cathedral), and not far from the world-class River Test fishery.



Searching the Internet, I found a fly-fishing guide service quite near Salisbury. Now, if you don't believe in coincidences, try this on for size: Two of the principals at the "Aardvark McLeod" guide service had a familiar surname... Jardine! Yes, SPFF's good friend Charles and his son Alex. Knowing we couldn't go wrong, we booked a day with Alex on the Test.

So there Carol and I were, working beats 10 and 11 on a famous man-made chalk stream river. Man made? Alex explained it was dug by the Romans, sometime before 400AD, to drain the swampy surrounding valley for agricultural development. The Test was absolutely gorgeous, underneath an overcast sky and fairly constant drizzle, quite the norm for England.

With the water clear as glass, the fish spooked from quite a distance away, even though we stayed back from the bank and walked softly. Alex spent some time getting Carol used to the river, and did an admirable job. Before our lunchtime break at "The Mayfly", we'd each caught and released 3 nice fish, 5 browns and a whitey.

Back on the river after a classic British lunch in the lovely pub/cafe, I overcame the "spooky" problem by mostly working the opposite bank. For the afternoon, I doubled the number I'd released in our morning session. Carol did well, too, landing the nice brown you see in Alex's net. All in all, quite a spectacular day!



On our walk out, we spotted odd-looking small black shapes in the grass. At first look, they were some kind of animal poop, so we were careful not to foul our shoes. On closer examination, we realized they were the ugliest slugs we'd ever seen!

So, thank you Smoother and Alex! You've made us look forward to getting back to Salisbury in the future, and enjoy another day or two on the wonderful River Test!



# FLYLINE ARTICLE: LINING UP BY BENNETT MINTZ

## *Lining Up*

*By Bennett Mintz*

Of all the remarkable tackle advances over the past decade or so – rods, reels, boots, waders – none is as great as fly lines.

Most of us take them for granted and whip them to a froth season after season. Maybe it's time to unwind – and re-wind – for 2018.

If you're not up to a new line or two (costs have gone out-of-sight), at least do a bit of spit and polish. There are plenty of good, inexpensive line dressings on the market that restore, renew and protect that precious connection between you and fish. Particularly if you've been practicing in the Reseda Park pond or even Lake Balboa, your line has likely acquired a nasty coating of gunk, junk and microorganisms.

These need to be cleaned off before heading to the Sierra or anywhere else. A good, clean line will add distance, accuracy and pleasure to your day a-water.

My favorite cleaner/preservative actually isn't made for fly lines. It's primarily a boat and outdoor vinyl furniture product called 303 Aerospace Protectant. It's available at West Marine boating stores; Google it or try Amazon. It not only slicks your fly line, but protects it from the sun.

However, if your line has been well-used and is more than say three years old, it's probably time to invest in a new one.

Rio, Scientific Angler, Cortland, Orvis, Monic and a host of others have created some wondrous tools. Years ago, you were limited to floating, sinking and maybe a sink-tip or two. Nowadays, there are lines for every condition, every fish and flies from dry to Kelly Galoup-style streamer. Pack a few new lines and corresponding extra reel spools and suddenly you're over-burdened in debt.

If you're heading for Alaska by any chance, be sure to pack a Teeny T-200 or T-300 integrated sink-tip. They're still the best for kings, Coho and Arctic charr either moving upstream or hanging a few feet below the surface. Teeny sells his lines direct and can be reached at (503) 667 6602 or [info@jimteeny.com](mailto:info@jimteeny.com).

As for standard dry fly or nymphing lines, my suggestion is to buy the medium- or lowest priced (beginner) line that will do the job. If you fish 20 or so days this season, there's hardly a need for a pro line designed to fish 300. Besides, I doubt if the manufacturers deliberately produce a crummy second or third level of line. It's probably more in the packaging anyway.

But the new lines – all of them – overhand cast better, roll cast better, defeat wind better and give you a feeling of confidence that's well worth the price of admission. Stop by that friendly Burbank Blvd. tackle store; get some good advice based on where and when you'll be fishing and line up for 2018.

# SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

## April 2018

PHW Vets .....	5
Board Meeting .....	5
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	7
CI Seminar @ LBCC .....	14
PHW Vets .....	19
Dinner Meeting .....	19
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	21
SWC Quarterly Meeting.....	21
Kelsey Ranch outing.....	28-29

## May 2018

PHW Vets .....	3
Board Meeting .....	3
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	5
PHW Vets .....	17
Dinner Meeting .....	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	19
Memorial Day .....	28

## June 2018

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	2
PHW Vets .....	7
Board Meeting .....	7
Hot Creek Ranch weekend.....	8 -11
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	16
Rush Creek Cleanup .....	16
PHW Vets .....	17
Dinner Meeting .....	21

## July 2018

Independence Day .....	4
Board Meeting .....	5
PHW Vets .....	5
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	7
Dinner Meeting @ Wilderness.....	17
PHW Vets .....	19
GSO - Getting Started Outing.....	20-22
SWC Quarterly Meeting.....	21

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)

## NEXT DINNER MEETING

Thursday April 19  
Monterey At Encino 16821 Burbank Blvd  
Encino, CA 91436

### MENU

#### Entrée:

Sirloin Steak  
or

Chicken Brochettes  
Served with Mashed Potatoes and  
Steamed Veggies

#### Dessert:

Hot Fudge Sundaes

### Cocktails at 6:00 / Dinner 7:00

Call 818.789.1919 Ext 10 (Michelle) or  
email MontereyatEncino@Gmail.com  
Reserve by **Monday, April 16**  
\$32.00 Cash or Check, No Cards  
Non-dining guests are FREE!

## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The Board of Directors and membership of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers wish to express their appreciation to the retailers. Their promotion of our club and its activities throughout the year, and their contributions of products and services help us to continue the various public services that we offer.

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805-648-3803

#### A16 Outfitters

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Shell Mart Center #3  
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760-924-3676

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47 North Fair Oaks Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
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#### Fishermen's Spot

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