



## RAFFLE

### 1st Prize

4wt 9ft 4pc fishing rod

### 2nd Prize

Your choice of:

Orvis Battenkill Disc reel for 3-4wt

or

C3LA 9-10 reel with two spools

### 3rd Prize

Cortland 555 WF4F Line

### 4th Prize

Anglers Pint Glass

### Big Barrel

Cal Trout T-shirt, book on Montana,  
Flyline backing, or hat

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## DINNER MEETING: THURS, JAN 17



### Successful Seasons: Tips for Catching Giant Trout All Year with Landon Mayer

by Marshall Bissett

One of the top guides in the Western United States, Colorado guide Landon Mayer makes a welcome return to the SoCal speaker circuit. His new video-enhanced program will lay to rest the myth that giant trout can only be caught in the Spring and Fall.

Landon Mayer's angling success is fueled by an addiction to pursuing large trout with small flies and lightweight fly-fishing equipment. Mayer enthusiastically teaches and demonstrates his techniques and on-river knowledge and has developed innovative strategies for sighting, hooking, and landing selective trout. He shares these tips and secrets in his

books and DVD's. Landon's passion for fly-fishing has allowed him to make several noteworthy contributions to the sport on and off the water. This has included travels to fly-fishing related organizations of the Mid-Atlantic, West, Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and Southern states, as well as teaching through guided trips, fly-fishing classes, presentations, and demonstrations of his unique techniques. Mayer has been guiding in Colorado full time on the South Platte River for the last 22 years, and one full season on the Nak Nek River in AK. He resides with his wife, Michelle, and their four children in Florissant, Colorado.

Landon was born and raised in Colorado Springs where he began his fly fishing career in the 6th grade when his middle school offered fly casting lessons. Throughout his teens, Landon's love of the sport grew when he spent all his free time hanging around local fly shops and watching VHS tapes by Gary Borger and Doug Swisher until the tapes actually wore out! After graduating high school, Landon pursued a career as a full time guide in Colorado, learning from great Colorado anglers such as Ed Engle, Pat Dorsey and fly tyer John Barr. He also spent one year guiding in Alaska on the Naknek River. During this same time, Landon began publishing articles in magazines such as *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Rod & Reel*,

*(Program continued on next page)*

# DINNER MEETING

(Program continued from page 1)

*High Country Angler, Southwest Fly Fishing and American Angler.*

Mayer is a contributing writer for *Fly Fisherman* and *High Country Angler* magazines. His contributions also have been featured in publications such as *Fly Rod and Reel, American Angler, Southwest Fly Fishing, Field and Stream, and Fish and Fly* magazines. As an ambassador in the fly-fishing industry, Mayer represents several lines including Simms Fly Fishing apparel and is a royalty fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is also an advisory team member of Simms, R.L.Winton, Bauer, Scientific Angler, Smith Optics, Fish Pond, Yeti Coolers, Regal Vise, and Casio Pro Trek watches.



Landon’s techniques are contained in his best know publications and DVD’s: *The Hunt for Giant Trout: 25 Top Locations in the US to Catch a Trophy Trout* (new for 2019), *Trout Tips: A Guide’s Secrets, Tactics and Techniques, Colorado’s Best Fly Fishing, Sight Fishing for Trout, and How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life*, in addition to two DVDs: *Landing the Trout of Your Life* and *Weapons of Bass Production*, both of which also feature John Barr.

Together with his wife Michelle (who shares his passion for the sport) and their four children, Landon continues to live near his home waters of the South Platte River in Colorado where he teaches fly fishing through guiding and fly fishing classes; he also appears around the country giving presentations of his innovative, successful and popular techniques. You can learn more about this great fly fisher by going to: [www.landonmayer.com](http://www.landonmayer.com)



# SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

## JANUARY

PHW Vets .....	3
Board Meeting .....	3
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	5
Beginning Fly Tying Class #1 .....	9
Intermediate Casting Clinic (PCC) .....	12
Beginning Fly Tying Class #2 .....	16
PHW Vets .....	17
Dinner Meeting (Landon Mayer, “Successful Seasons: Tips for Catching Giant Trout All Year”)..	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	19
Beginning Fly Tying Class #3 .....	23
Intermediate Casting Clinic (PCC) .....	26
Beginning Fly Tying Class #4 .....	30

## FEBRUARY

Superbowl Weekend Outing.....	1-3
Casting Clinic at Lake Balboa.....	1
Beginning Fly Tying Class #5 .....	6
PHW Vets .....	7
Board Meeting .....	7
Owens River Annual Cleanup.....	9
Beginning Fly Tying Class #6 .....	13
Tenkara Clinic @ Lower Owens .....	16-17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	16
Beginning Fly Tying Class #7 .....	20
PHW Vets .....	21
Dinner Meeting (Jim Cox, “Western Rivers Conservancy & Smallmouth on the John Day”).....	21
Introduction to Fly Fishing - Class #1 .....	23

## MARCH

Introduction to Fly Fishing - Class #2 .....	2
PHW Vets .....	7
Board Meeting .....	7
Introduction to Fly Fishing - Class #3 .....	9
Introduction to Fly Fishing - Class #4 .....	16
PHW Vets .....	21
Dinner Meeting (Annual Auction Fundraiser).....	21

Thank you for submitting your Newsletter Items to [news@spff.org](mailto:news@spff.org) by the 3rd Thursday, each month. Look for the Newsletter on [spff.org](http://spff.org) on the 1st of each month.



SIERRA PACIFIC FLY FISHERS

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

After being tag-teamed for several months by Marshall Bissett and Michael Peratis, I have been browbeaten into taking over as President of SPFF. My first thought is “Oh My God, What Have I Done?” After all, following Marshall in this job is like Truman following FDR: there’s no way to measure up, and I don’t have an atom bomb to drop to establish my credentials. Fortunately, Marshall will be here to guide me.



So, let me start by stating the obvious: I AM NOT MARSHALL. I can’t cast 150 feet and hit a tarpon on the nose; I haven’t

fished in every body of water in the Western world, and fallen into most of them; I don’t know every luminary in the fly fishing world by name and fished with most of them. So, why am I doing this?

The simple reason is that the club is important to me, ever since Jim Fleisher coaxed me into this weird little world in 2008 by giving me an Albright 4 weight he won in the monthly auction. (This came to be known as the \$40,000 rod, a story for another time.) I’ve made some of the best friends of my life in the club, traveled and fished with them, learned and been taught by this group of men and women who are unfailingly generous with their time, expertise, flies and equipment. I’ve had the opportunity to mentor some new members, learned to teach beginning casting and became a competent, if hardly expert, fly tier under the expert tutelage of Michael Peratis and the volunteer teachers every Wednesday night, including the incomparable Mas Okui. It’s the highlight of my week and I encourage you to give it a try if you haven’t done so.

I joined the Board out of curiosity, in order to see how the club works, signed on as Circulation Chair and learned the names of club members I have yet to meet in person through our mailings. I encourage all of you to come to a board meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Let me know when so I can make sure we have a seat for you at dinner. I promise we’ll find something for you to do!

We have a lot of members who pay their dues but are rarely seen. While we certainly appreciate the support,

you are missing a lot if you don’t come the monthly dinner meeting and sign up for our outings. Please feel free to contact me at any time, by email at [President@SPFF.org](mailto:President@SPFF.org), on my personal email at [richmress@gmail.com](mailto:richmress@gmail.com) or, if it can’t wait, call my cell at 818-421-2080. I’ll try to answer as quickly as possible.

I’ve had an opportunity to experience the wider world of fly fishing by going to Montana, first with the club and later with my late friend Jim Henderson. I’ve fished the Farmington River while visiting my wife’s family in Connecticut, the famous Beaverkill in upstate New York and in Oregon and Washington on this coast. I’ve tried to improve my casting skills by going to the Saturday sessions at Balboa Lake, took the Teach the Teachers class at the Pasadena Casting Club and then the Intermediate Casting course. I still can’t claim to be more than an average caster and fisherman, but no one enjoys the effort more than I do.

Back in my skiing days I used to say I was the worst skier to ski the best mountains in the country. Fly fishing has gotten me back up into the mountains, and come to think of it, it was Jim Fleisher who got me into skiing as well. Good friends are like that.

--Rich Ress

## DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President.....	Richard Ress
Vice President.....	Bernie Ecker
Secretary.....	Jody Martin
Treasurer.....	Mike Hembree
Communications.....	Bill Luddy
Conservation.....	Debbie Sharpton
Education.....	Steve Ebersold
Education Co-Chair.....	Michael Peratis
Membership.....	Jay Bushore
Newsletter Editor.....	Ed Swanson
Outings.....	Jim Fleisher
Programs.....	Marshall Bissett
Raffles.....	Steve Esgate
Special Projects.....	Glenn Short
Fundraising.....	Kevin Radanovich
Web Master.....	Ren Colantoni
Technical Assistant.....	Aran Dokovna

## MEMBERSHIP

by Jay Bushore

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. You can join on our website at:

[spff.org/New Member Signup](http://spff.org/New Member Signup)

SPFF always welcomes new members. Memberhttp://spff.org/content.aspx?s, please welcome and introduce yourselves to our latest members:

**BRUCE KIRBIS**

## PROJECT HEALING WATERS

by David Hoffberg

Volunteers meet at Sepulveda Vet Center twice a month to teach Veterans fly tying and fly casting.

Visit [spff.org/Project Healing Waters](http://spff.org/Project Healing Waters) for more information.

## INTRODUCTION TO FLY TYING

by Michael Peratis

This seven week course (Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13 & 20) will get you well on your way to a satisfying lifetime creating flies that will catch fish! You'll begin by learning basic techniques that you'll use to tie simple flies. Week by week you'll acquire more advanced skills and you'll apply them to create more complex flies.

You'll be guided by an experienced fly tier who will be your coach throughout the course. We will lend you a vise, a lamp and all the tools required for the course. Your cost for the course is \$75 which is partial payment for your materials, course manual and accompanying DVD. SPFF pays the balance of the cost. Payment for the course is required at the time you register.

Unless you are absolutely sure about the vise and tools you intend to purchase, we strongly encourage you to WAIT and use our loaners. The instructors will have a variety of vises & tools and you'll be able to get some valuable advice as to what you may want to buy. Since each class session requires that students use skills learned at the previous sessions, it's very important that everyone attends every session. And yes, there will be HOMEWORK!

The class is open to everyone & is limited to 10 students. For more information, please visit [spff.org](http://spff.org)

## PAT JAEGER

PAT JAEGER, our 2018 recipient of the J Stanley Lloyd Order of the Mayfly, read to those gathered a poem he wrote to thank SPFF for the award. With Pat's kind permission, we are pleased to provide a written version of his poem below.

Twas a week before Christmas and I haven't a peep.  
Not a word not a gesture, not a sentence of my speech.

Trying to get ink onto paper has seemed such a huge  
proposition.  
Always a distraction, wondering bout the fish'n.

For it was a few weeks ago, when Marshall had called  
To inform me The Order of the Mayfly has been installed.

I could hardly believe my ears or was it the way that he  
speaks.  
That thick British accent, those guys are such freaks.

I thought it was a joke, I truly must admit.  
For almost drowning you and Smoother on the McCloud  
and the Pit.

This award has been given to the legends of the sport.  
To stand in their shoes not sure if my legs can support.

Guys like Ralph Cutter, Doug Swisher, Mas Okui to mention  
a few  
As well as other legends, old and new.

Contributions to the art fly fishing or is it what fly fishing  
has given to me.  
Without its currents of bliss I just wouldn't be.

Bliss being the path and the moments that it brought.  
All the good people I've met, and the fish that we lost.

My visions as a teacher is to give freedom to fish alone.  
My work is complete when my students are hunting trout on  
one's own.

I love to fish new waters and guide without fear,  
When trips are all over I've been known smoke cigars and  
drink beers.

The Sierra summers are warm and the winters we might  
shiver.  
My goals are to go to work happy and raise my girls  
alongside a river.

Being a good friend, fishing guide, a husband, a dad,  
These titles in life if could fulfill then I would be glad.

This award is a confirmation of doing things right.  
A heart felt appreciation... .. **and to all a goodnight.**



**SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2019**

**What: Southwest Council FlyBuy 2019 Fly Tying Show and Fundraiser**

**Where: Long Beach Casting Club – 5201 E. 7<sup>th</sup>, Long Beach, CA  
9:00 to 4:00**

**Activities: Over 20 of SoCal's best Fly Tiers; Raffles; Silent Auctions; Flies for Sale; Used-Equipment Sale; Casting Lessons for all levels and Casting Games**

**Admission: \$13 for members; \$18 for others (memberships available at the door) – admission includes lunch! Kids 14 and under free!**

**Website: [swcffi.org/flybuy](http://swcffi.org/flybuy)**

LONG BEACH – FlyBuy 2019 – part fishing tackle garage sale, part fly-fishing carnival and all fun – is slated for the Long Beach Casting Club on Feb. 2, announced the sponsoring Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International.

The casting club, 4901 East 7<sup>th</sup> St., will feature day-long fly tying, kids' fly tying, fly casting instruction, a garage sale, silent auction and raffles from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FlyBuy 2019 benefits the Southwest Council, Fly Fishers International.

Admission is \$13 for members, \$18 for others, with memberships available at the door. Lunch is included.

**“Donate any useable fly-fishing item or accessory with an original value of more than \$40 to the garage sale and you will get free admission,”** said Bill O'Kelly, President of the Council.

Rods, reels, lines, clothes, vests or accessories not sold will be donated to Project Healing Waters, a veterans' service and rehabilitation organization or Casting For Recovery, a national organization for breast cancer survivors.

For fly-fishing newcomers or experienced anglers who want to tune up their game, both FFI Certified and Master Casting Instructors will offer personalized lessons for \$1.00 a minute (20 minutes minimum) at the casting club's pond. Instructors will be available for traditional single-hand or Spey casting lessons, added Eric Callow, Casting Director.

New this year! We will have tiers available to teach kids to tie their first fly. And children under 14 get in FREE, including lunch!

Twenty of Southern California's best fly tiers – including national and international award-winners – will be on hand to demonstrate their fresh and saltwater fish-catching fly patterns and techniques. Fly patterns will range from Eastern Sierra trout, bass bugs to surf fishing, local ocean breakwaters, and offshore big game.

FlyBuy 2019 will also feature both a silent auction and raffle during the day-long event.

Information: (818) 6019702; email [specialprojects@swcffi.org](mailto:specialprojects@swcffi.org) or visit [www.swcffi.org/events/fly-](http://www.swcffi.org/events/fly-)

# MEMORIES OF THE HOLIDAY PARTY



## SOCAL WOMEN ON THE FLY

Are you looking for a group of like minded women who enjoy fly fishing? You have found us!

SoCal Women on the Fly, in conjunction with the national group United Women on the Fly, is a community of women anglers who are connected to the sport of fly fishing in all areas of Southern California. Inspired by United Women on the Fly started by Heather Hodson, and launched in 2018 by Jennifer Holbrook and a few of her fly fishing friends, SoCal Women on the Fly hosts women-only events for new and experienced women anglers in an encouraging, supportive environment. We also network with Southern California fly fishing clubs and retailers to encourage women's participation for in- and out-of-region fishing trips and team events, and to just enjoy the company of like-minded fly fishers.

There are no club dues for SoCal Women on the Fly (SCWOTF) as our mission is connecting women fly fishers, growing their love of the sport and spreading information about the variety of fisheries in our Southern California region.

We look forward meeting you, and seeing Women on the Fly network grow. Please join us on facebook at: SoCalWomen on the Fly.

Please feel free to contact us for questions or more information at: [socalwomenonthefly@gmail.com](mailto:socalwomenonthefly@gmail.com), or contact Jennifer Holbrook at: [\(310\) 617-3266](tel:3106173266).

## INTERMEDIATE CASTING CLINIC

### Intermediate Casting Clinic

Two Saturdays, Jan. 12 & 26 at 9 am  
PCC Casting Pool

The highly successful Pasadena Casting Club/Southwest Council Intermediate Casting Clinic last held in November of 2017 is scheduled for January 2019!

Once again, a team of the very best instructors in Southern California will be assembled for the benefit of qualified students. The class is structured for casters who can throw a three foot or tighter loop, with roughly parallel legs, for thirty feet.

Twenty slots are open to Southwest Council club members at the bargain price of \$50.00 and are sure to fill fast.

To sign up, go the Southwest Council website at <https://www.swcffi.org/icc> Questions? Contact: C. Eric Callow, [casting@swcffi.org](mailto:casting@swcffi.org); [\(818\) 219-2276](tel:8182192276)

## MONTHLY DINNER PROGRAM MEETINGS

### THIRD THURSDAY

Monterey At Encino  
16821 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91436

6:00 Cocktails / 7:00 Dinner / Program follows

\$32.00 Cash or Check, No Cards  
Non-dining guests are FREE!

**Reserve Dinner by Monday prior**  
818.789.1919

[montereyatencino@gmail.com](mailto:montereyatencino@gmail.com)

### January Dinner Menu:

Appetizer:  
Baby Green Salad

Entree:  
Cheese Tortellini or Grilled Salmon  
with Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans

Dessert:  
Hot Fudge Sundae

## FISHING REPORT: BARRACUDA ENCOUNTER

By Jody Martin

Barracudas are predatory fish known for their speed and aggressive behavior. They belong to the unique genus *Sphyraena*, the only genus in the family Sphyraenidae. Although there are 28 species worldwide, only a few are of interest to sport fishers. On the west coast of North America, *Sphyraena argentea*, the Pacific or California barracuda, ranges from Puget Sound to Cabo San Lucas and is a fairly popular game fish. But when most anglers think of catching barracudas, they are envisioning *Sphyraena barracuda*, the "great barracuda" (also called "giant barracuda") of the western Atlantic and Caribbean, a species that's also found in subtropical seas around the world. These amazing fish are classic ambush predators that patrol the upper water column, relying on bursts of speed up to 27 mph to run down other fish, their primary diet. They are especially fond of needlefish, another long, thin predator of the ocean's surface waters.

In recent years barracuda have begun to get more of the credit they deserve as a first rate game fish. Although fishing for them, even with fly rods, is nothing new, historically they have been seen as "the other game fish," something to turn to when conditions are not right for targeting bonefish, permit, tarpon,

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dorado, or the many other prized fishes of the saltwater flats and adjacent seas. In fact, the Key West barracuda tournament known as the Cuda Bowl (open to spin and fly fishing), now in only its eighth year, was created by Florida Captain Justin Rea and his wife Loren to “help shallow water fishing guides generate more winter-time business,” a description that seems to admit the low esteem that barracuda fishing has traditionally received. It was only at the end of this past year (December 30, 2018 – January 5, 2019) that the world’s first “fly only” barracuda tournament, sponsored by Hatch Magazine and hosted by Bair’s Lodge in the Bahamas, was launched. The description on the tournament’s website (<https://www.hatchmag.com/hatch-magazine-inaugural-barracuda-tournament>) sums up the good and the bad of barracuda fly fishing:

“What fish is found on the flats year round, requires a stealthy, careful approach, bends over a stout 9 weight like it’s a wet noodle, disappears fly line into backing in mere seconds and virtually never fails to put on an aerial show replete with leaps and head shakes and thrashes? It’s not the bonefish. Or the coveted permit. Or even the burly tarpon. Nope. It’s the barracuda. A fish we’ve long lamented as woefully undertargeted on the flats.”

One of the great things about barracudas is that they are not overly finicky. If it is moving fast enough, they will usually attack just about anything long and shiny, and they will tear it to pieces. My son Paul (also a member of SPFF) and I had a couple of banner days with the barracudas of Andros Island recently, with countless numbers of large barracudas hurtling out of the water to hit our flies, somersaulting wildly when hooked and making screaming runs. After the ‘cudas had completely destroyed my limited inventory of barracuda flies, our guide Torrie Bevans rigged up an old gray deck rag – seriously – by tearing it into long gray strips of fabric, inserting a few hooks connected by wire, and tying on some of the flashy remains of our ruined flies. It worked. That day, it seemed like almost anything would. But by far the most successful fly we used, garnering vicious hits within seconds of hitting the water, was a needlefish pattern of mine, which we dubbed the Cuda-Gra (as in *coup de grâce*; thanks to Paul for the name).

The Cuda-Gra is a long, thin, tandem-hooked fly. The pattern borrows heavily from an article on the Deneki Outdoors website, *How to Tie a Needlefish Fly for Barracuda*, a fly they recommend for fishing the barracuda-rich waters of Andros South, their excellent lodge on South Andros Island: <https://www.deneki.com/2016/01/needlefish-fly-for-barracuda-tying-instructions/>. It differs only in the



addition of some synthetic materials to make the color and movement a little more lifelike, and to make it more durable (although the word “durable” is a relative term when fly fishing for barracudas; our best fly survived only

three barracudas and one needlefish before it was destroyed). You can see the epoxied head of the fly – about all that is left of the fly after the fight – in the lower jaw of the fish in the photo below. The key to its success, I think, is the trailing hook, and of course the steel wire (I used 30 lb Rio Wire Bite) you need to connect the two hooks and to attach your leader to the fly. I’ll post the directions for tying the Cuda-Gra elsewhere. But for now, I wanted to share some of the results of our trip. If this sounds like something that might interest you, I cannot say enough good things about the Andros South lodge, one of several fly fishing lodges (the others are in Alaska and British Columbia) managed by the folks at Deneki Outdoors. If you go, be sure to ask for Torrie. And tip him heavily. He’s worth every penny.



## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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

**Fishermen’s Spot**  
14411 Burbank Blvd.  
Van Nuys, CA 91401  
818.785.7306

**Gangadin Restaurant**  
12067 Ventura Place  
Studio City, Ca 91604  
(818) 509-0722

**Kern River Fly Shop**  
11301 Kernville, Rd.  
Kernville, CA 93238  
760.376.2040

**Orvis**  
345 S. Lake Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
626.356.8000

**Pat Jaeger**  
Eastern Sierra Guide Service  
2327 Stone Circle  
Bishop, CA 93514  
760.872.7770

**Patagonia-Ventura**  
Great Pacific Iron Works  
235 W. Santa Clara St.  
Ventura, CA 93001  
805.643.6074

**Patagonia-Pasadena**  
47 N. Fair Oaks Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
626.795.0319

**Real Cheap Sports**  
235 W. Santa Clara St.  
Ventura, CA 93001  
805.643.6074

I'D RATHER BE  
*Fishing*

Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers proudly supports the conservation efforts of:

