



**RAFFLE**

Lots of great items as always!  
Be sure to check out the raffle table at the Dinner Meeting.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Our Annual Fundraiser and Live Auction will take place on **THURSDAY, MARCH 21**



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**DINNER MEETING: THURS, FEB 21**



**Fly Fishing Oregon's Wild and Scenic John Day River**

**with Jim Cox**

by Marshall Bissett

In February we welcome Jim Cox of Western Rivers Conservancy whose famous slogan "Sometimes to save a river you have to buy it" sums up their success in protecting tens of thousands of acres on western streams. Their current conservation priorities include land acquisitions on California's lower Klamath River, the Salmon River in Idaho, the John Day River in Oregon, the Gunnison River in Colorado and the Hood River in Oregon. For lovers of smallmouth bass trout and steelhead, the program is living proof that diligent conservation leads to spectacular fishing. Said to be the strongest fighters in their weight class, smallmouth bass make the John Day a perfect destination.

Jim Cox, Director of Angling and Donor Relations for Western Rivers Conservancy, will make a presentation entitled "Fly Fishing Oregon's Wild and Scenic John Day River." Since 1988 Western Rivers Conservancy has protected lands on more than 60 rivers in eight western states. The program will provide a few short updates WRC's current conservation projects, with a major focus on fly fishing Oregon's Wild and Scenic John Day River, the second longest free-flowing river in the West, for its world-class smallmouth bass fishery and its excellent run of wild summer steelhead. WRC was instrumental in helping create Cottonwood Canyon State Park on the John Day, the second largest state park in Oregon, and has purchased another major ranch on the John Day in an effort to protect Thirty Mile Creek, a major cold-water sanctuary for wild steelhead and new public access point.



Jim joined Western Rivers Conservancy as Director of Angling and Donor Relations in 2011. He has spent more than 30 working professionally in the nonprofit sector. Jim is a past steering committee co-chair of the Nonprofit

*(Program continued on next page)*

# DINNER MEETING

(Program continued from page 1)

Association of Oregon and is an active member of the Northwest Planned Giving Roundtable. He is a member of numerous conservation organizations including Trout Unlimited, Flyfishers Club of Oregon, FFI, the Native Fish Society, and The Freshwater Trust among others. Jim holds a Bachelor of Theatre Degree from Willamette University. Jim lives in Portland, Oregon. In his free time, you can find him fly fishing for trout and steelhead on the wild rivers of the West.



In every corner of the American West a stream cries out for protection, because it is habitat for endangered fish and wildlife, because it is the scenic centerpiece of a community, or because it is a favorite haunt of boaters, anglers and hikers. Western Rivers Conservancy answers those calls for help with one of the strongest tools for river protection: land acquisition.

For more info go to: [www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org)



# SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

Superbowl Weekend Outing.....	1-3
Casting Clinic at Lake Balboa.....	2
SWC Fly Buy 2019 @ Long Beach Casting Club .....	2
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, "Fly Fishing Oregon's Wild and Scenic John Day River").....	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 ( <b>Annual Auction Fundraiser</b> ).....	21
ITFF Graduation Outing.....	29-31

## APRIL

PHW Vets .....	4
Board Meeting .....	4
PHW Vets .....	18
Dinner Meeting (Kirk Johnson, "The Feather Thief").....	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	20
Bamboo Rod Gathering (PCC).....	27
<b>General Trout Season Opens!</b> .....	27

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

I've just come from the Winter Quarterly Meeting of the Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International, which is our annual Club Management Day at which board members of the 22 member clubs are invited to meet with our counterparts.



The purpose is to share our experiences, successes and problems so we're not missing ideas and solutions that other clubs have already found to be useful. This is the third session I've attended, my first as president so it was particularly instructive. We are still one of the most active clubs in the SWC, of which we can be proud. Our donation to conservation efforts was particularly noted and appreciated.

My first observation is that most of the clubs are experiencing the same issues we are: declining attendance at functions, aging membership and lack of diversity. There have been some impressive successes: one club increased membership by 60 last year and another by 100. Both accomplished this with a vigorous social media campaign as well as personal outreach efforts. They found that new, younger fly fishers are not interested in attending meetings (no surprise) or listening to lectures, but they will respond to innovative approaches such as holding a social event at a brew pub, at which casual demonstrations of fly tying or other activities may be offered in an unstructured fashion. They also want to go fishing but often can't take off work or afford a trip to Montana. More local events, such as fishing the San Gabriel River, the surf or nearby lakes have been helpful but held on weekends rather than on work days. Key to this effort will be finding someone to guide a vigorous social media presence, with frequent postings on the sites young people use such as Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. Even the Facebook pages are now felt to be reaching an older audience, though still valuable.

Critical in this effort has been inclusion of women, who comprise a significant, perhaps the largest, reservoir of untapped folks to be introduced to the sport. Casting For Recovery has led the charge in this regard up to now, and the SWC has a new board member for Women's Programs, Karen Hall. There was also discussion of a kid's council, focused on bringing children, teens and young adults into our ranks. Several clubs have very successful Trout in the Classroom programs with up to 30 active classrooms per club. This requires volunteers, ideally but not necessarily with teaching experience, to guide this effort. I know we

tried this in the past without much success, but perhaps someone in the club would be willing to give it a try. Those who have been successful at other clubs are available to guide this effort.

Another suggestion was having occasional specialized, rather than generalized, casting clinics, and advertising these and other events and trips to the other clubs as well as to the public. Some of us have taken the Teach the Teachers and Intermediate Casting classes at the Pasadena casting pond. Perhaps we could consider having a few teaching sessions at our Saturday morning casting practice at Balboa Lake focusing on a specific skill, such as casting accurately to a target, casting for distance, double hauling and the like. We are blessed with excellent instructors including Marshall Bissett and Michael Peratis, and we might even induce some of the other Certified Casting Instructors to come if we have an adequate turnout.

We will be discussing this and other efforts at upcoming board meetings. Once again, I invite any club member to contact me about coming to a board session and especially if you would like to help with any of these efforts. It's your club, after all.

--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. Member <http://spff.org/content.aspx?s>, please welcome and introduce yourselves to our latest members:

**XAN RUFUS-ISAACS**  
**VYKE CHENKERIAN**  
**RICH SEMAN**  
**MATTHEW SWANSON**  
**FRANCINE TANSEY**  
**SUE CHUNG**  
**SAL SUMARAN**

## 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.



## OBITUARY

by Steve Esgate

Harrie Nielsen, long time club member of both Sierra Pacific Fly Fishing and Pasadena Casting Club, has passed away at 95 years old. Harrie was a member of SPFF from the late 80's until about seven years ago when he became ill. Harrie and I fished all over the world for 20 yrs. He was a WW II navy veteran. An optical engineer, Harrie worked on the Hubble Telescope.



### Rattlesnake Aversion Training for Dogs

Train your dog how to detect and avoid rattlesnakes; it could save a life!  
Essential for dogs who hike!

**2019 Schedule**  
**March 23- Agoura Hills**  
**March 24 - Goleta**  
**April 27-29 - Topanga**  
**June 22-23 - Agoura Hills**

Taught by expert dog trainers from High on Kennels, [www.highonkennels.com](http://www.highonkennels.com). The one-on-one training is repeated as many times necessary to assure that your dog will understand and avoid the sight, smell and sound of a rattlesnake. Training is app. 20 min. Allow one hour for sign in, possible wait and training. \$80 fee per dog.

Space is limited - Register online at:  
<https://rattlesnakeclinic.as.me/>

#### Did you know?

- Domestic dogs do not know the danger of poisonous snakes
- 15,000 dogs may be bitten by poisonous snakes every year
- 70-80% of bites are to a dog's face, head, and neck indicating it was investigating a snake
- Dogs can be taught to associate the smell of live rattlesnakes with negative correction
- A dog's avoidance behavior helps to alert the owner of danger

Questions? Contact Debbie Sharpton, Coldwell Banker Real Estate Agent for the Environment and Event Coordinator: [debbie.sharpton@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.sharpton@gmail.com) or call 805-338-8278

14th year of providing this service to the canine community  
Portion of the proceeds benefit community nonprofit organizations



**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-)

# INTRODUCTION TO FLY FISHING

If you have ever wanted to learn to fly fish, here is your chance - SPFF's classes will take you step by step from your first cast to landing a beautiful trout on the Owens River. The classroom sessions at the ONE GENERATION CENTER cover everything from knot tying to choosing the correct flies. At the nearby pond in Reseda Park you will learn the essential casts to prepare you to fish in rivers, lakes and streams. SPFF supplies loaner rods and reels to get you started. The classes are run by certified instructors and experienced Club members. The first four Saturday morning classes are February 23 thru March 16 with a special graduation class in Bishop, CA March 29 & 30.

Classes 1, 2 & 3 start at 8.30 am and run until 12 noon.

**February 23** – One Generation and Reseda Park Pond

General introduction to fly fishing. Explanation of equipment, local fishing opportunities, and you will learn the Pick- Up and Lay-Down Cast.

**March 2** - One Generation and Reseda Park Pond

Dry fly fishing, knot tying, and you will learn the Roll Cast.

**March 9** - One Generation and Reseda Park Pond

Nymph fishing, more knots, and you will learn the FALSE CAST.

**March 16** - LA River: start time to be announced.

Take your new skills to the LA River – where we'll teach you some presentation casts and line control techniques to use on moving water.

**March 29 & 30 Bishop, CA**

Graduation weekend in Bishop CA on the Owens River. This is an optional event but we definitely recommend it.

The cost for all sessions including the Bishop graduation outing is \$40 for adults, free for those under 18, and includes all classroom materials and handbook. Travel, food and lodging in Bishop not included.

For more information, you can contact Steve Ebersold at [education@spff.org](mailto:education@spff.org) or Michael Peratis at [education2@spff.org](mailto:education2@spff.org).

**When:**

Saturday, February 23, 2019, 8:30 AM until 12:00 PM

**Where:**

One Generation  
18255 Victory Boulevard  
Reseda, CA 91335

**Contact:**

Steve Ebersold  
818 439-0556  
[Yukai340@gmail.com](mailto:Yukai340@gmail.com)

**Registration is required  
Payment In Advance Or At Event**

## CONSERVATION REPORT

by Debbie Sharpton

Once spring-run chinook salmon disappear, they are not likely to re-emerge, indicates genetic analysis of the revered wild fish in a study led by the University of California, Davis. Prompt conservation action could preserve spring-run chinook, as well as their evolutionary potential.

[The study, published online](#) currently in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, illustrates that when human actions alter the characteristics, or "phenotypes," of wild species, these changes can become irreversible. This can have long-term evolutionary consequences because natural phenotypic variation buffers species from environmental changes and is a fundamental prerequisite for future evolution.

"If you lose the spring-run gene, you could potentially lose spring-run chinook forever," said lead author Tasha Thompson, a UC Davis doctoral candidate in the lab of UC Davis Professor Michael R. Miller in the Department of Animal Science. "You can't just assume the potential to recover them will persist in fall-run salmon populations."

An excellent article on the study can be found at [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2018-12/uoc--hai120418.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-12/uoc--hai120418.php)

## FISHING REPORT: THE OWENS IN JANUARY

by Ed Swanson

What better way to start the New Year than a float trip on the lower Owens with Pat Jaeger and his dog Cowboy? My wife Leigh Ann and I had this good fortune a few weeks ago. A bad right "tennis elbow" forced my wife to use a Tenkara rod, left-handed, yet this did not slow her down. Pat knew all the tricks to entice some lazy trout hiding down the bottom on a cold day to snack on a nymph, and the float was a big success.



## 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)

### DINNER MENU:

Appetizer

Green Salad

Entree

Baked Chicken or Salmon

Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans

Dessert

Cheesecake

## FISHING REPORT: 2018 STEELHEAD TRIP

by Bennet Mintz

Barracudas are predatory fish known for their speed and aggressive behavior. They belong to the unique genus *Sphyaena*, the only genus in the family Sphyaenidae. A quick end-of-November trip to the Trinity River west of Redding seemed like a good way to begin the Holiday Season.

Little did we know the skies would open and the rains – as welcome as they were – would pretty much wash out our trip.

I wound up with two virtually identical fish in the 18-inch range. And while they both gave good accounts of themselves, fighting for all they were worth until they came to net, they were, after all, just juveniles.

Like they say in Chavez Ravine, "Wait until next year."



# FISHING REPORT: STEELHEAD!

by Marshall Bissett  
(photos by Glenn Short)

## STEELHEAD – FISH OF A THOUSAND CASTS – YEAH RIGHT!

Whoever determined that a thousand casts would be enough to catch a winter run steelhead is either a liar or a hopeless optimist. Glenn Short and I were more than willing to cast our hearts out, up to our elbows in chilly water, shooting rapids in the dawn half-light to catch the wild winter steelhead for which Oregon's Sandy river is renowned. Our guiding team could not have been more distinguished. The husband and wife team of Marty and Mia Shepherd of Little Creek Outfitters are among the best in the business. Mia is a three-time winner of the Ladies' Division Spey distance competition at Spey-O-Rama. Marty has guided us to multi fish days in previous years. All the ingredients were in place and the ducks were in a row. Most right-minded people do not complain when the sun is



out, it's not too cold and there is no rain in the forecast – except steelheaders who can complain about anything and believe

that the crappier the weather, the better the fishing. Steelhead, in as much as we can glimpse inside their brains, like rising rivers caused by rain and prefer cloud cover to direct sun. Then, all else being equal, they might bite on a bright pink and purple streamer that resembles nothing in nature. We were faced with a river at historical low flows and temperatures above the normal hypothermic zone. So, we fell into the cast, swing, step

down and repeat routine that, done correctly, becomes effortless and hypnotic. Caught up in the rhythm of banging out long Spey casts, it's easy to forget that you are actually fishing. Days pass without sight of a fish. Glenn is turning the trip into a photo essay and I'm wondering if I might as well be casting at the Pasadena pond,



when Glenn hooks a fish. Yes, a bone fide steelhead "half pounder" takes his fly and in its landing gives hope where there was despair. I would love to say the spell was broken and huge fish then came to the net.

Instead we had good company, many laughs, great casting practice, hot soup on the bank, startlingly beautiful scenery and the anticipation of doing it all over again. Whoever defined insanity as doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting a different result was definitely not a steelhead angler and has no business on the river.



## 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 thorough 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



Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers



[dfg.ca.gov/fishing](http://dfg.ca.gov/fishing)



[caltrout.org](http://caltrout.org)



**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

[flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org)



[tu.org](http://tu.org)

