



CONTENTS

Zoom General Meeting:
 The Glorious Eastern
 Sierra with Chris Leonard ..1
 SPFF Event Calendar3
 President's Message.....4
 Directors & Comm. Chairs4
 Project Healing Waters5
 Casting.....5
 Outings.....5
 SPFF Library.....5
 Membership5
 Southwest Council FFI.....5
 Our New Certified Instructor .6
 Fun Quiz Time.....6
 Answers to Last Month's
 Quiz (Fishers)7
 Lessons on Guided Trips9
 Support Our Sponsors10



ZOOM GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 14

THE GLORIOUS EASTERN SIERRA with CHRIS LEONARD

by Marshall Bissett

Many of us have favorite spots in our home waters around Bishop, Mammoth and Bridgeport, but only a few have studied them with a guide's eye. As we make the four hour drive up 395, the questions arise. Lower O in the morning, Hot Creek or the Upper in the afternoon? Carry on to Bridgeport and the East Walker? Where are the flows and is the wind going to blow us out of Long Ears (or Years, if you prefer.) Our July presenter, local guide and Mammoth resident Chris Leonard can help. His program looks at times of the year, fly choice, and tactics for the major Eastern Sierra streams. Veterans of these waters and those just starting their Sierra adventure will all learn from Chris' insights. As the area is starting to re-open because of COVID, there is no better time to get the latest reports.



Chris will bring to the club his local knowledge of how to

(Program continued on next page)

GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Program continued from page 1)

improve your odds of a successful day on three of his favorite fisheries: Hot Creek, the Upper Owens, and the San Joaquin River. Hot Creek is undoubtedly Chris's favorite moving water fishery. He averages about 75 days a year on this blue-ribbon creek. The Upper Owens is one of the most beginner friendly rivers in the area.



And the San Joaquin River is an absolute gem. It is second to none in regard to the pristine beauty of its natural surroundings. Chris will discuss where, when, and how to best fish these waters. He will also touch a bit on two of his other favorite fisheries: The East Walker River and Crowley Lake. Please join us as we gear up for what is going to be a productive and lengthy summer of fly fishing in the Mammoth Lakes region.

Tune in by ZOOM and stick around for the Q and A at the end – that's often the best part!



Chris is a Southern California native, having graduated from La Canada High School in 1993. He continued his education at Chico State, earning a BA degree in International Relations in 1998. Upon finishing his education at Chico, he enlisted in the US Peace Corps, and served as a TEFL teacher at a public middle and high school in Central Transylvania. This began his career as an educator, having



taught at Foothills Middle School in Arcadia, California from 2001 – 2004, before moving to his current home in Mammoth Lakes, California in 2004, where he is a teacher at Mammoth High School. His greatest passions are education and fly fishing, making him a choice fly fishing instructor and on-water guide.

Chris guides through Kittredge Sports during the summer, also weekends and holidays during the school year. Rivers and lakes. Tenkara and Western rods. He began fly fishing when he moved to Mammoth Lakes, California. His favorite waters to fish and guide include the Owens River, Hot Creek, Rush Creek, Rock Creek, San Joaquin River, and Crowley Lake. A seasoned traveler, he has chased trout as



GENERAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

close as the Western US, as far away as the Midwest, Eastern US (he earned his MA in



Education at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont), Central America and South America. He has hooked chrome in the Pacific Northwest, redbfish in NOLA, and bonefish, permit, and tarpon in Belize. Ask Chris about the Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Club. He takes local Mammoth kids out on the water to teach them how to fly fish!

Details for joining the program on ZOOM will be provided on the spff.org web site prior to the meeting.



SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

JULY

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Virtual Fly Tying Session on Zoom.....	1
Board Meeting (Remote)	2
California Free Fishing Day	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	4
Virtual Fly Tying Session on Zoom.....	8
General Meeting & Presentation (The Glorious Eastern Sierra with Chris Leonard via Zoom)	14
Virtual Fly Tying Session on Zoom.....	15
Getting Started Outing (TENTATIVE) .	17-19
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18
SWC FFI Summer Quarterly Meeting.....	18
Virtual Fly Tying Session on Zoom.....	22
Virtual Fly Tying Session on Zoom.....	29

AUGUST

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	1
Project Healing Waters Vets	6
Board Meeting	6
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	15
Annual Family Picnic.....	16
Project Healing Waters Vets	20

SEPTEMBER

(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)

Project Healing Waters Vets	3
Board Meeting	3
California Free Fishing Day	5
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	5
Project Healing Waters Vets	17
Annual Anglers' Auction Fundraiser and Dinner Meeting (Rescheduled)	17
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	19

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

It has certainly been a strange and unsettling year. Pandemic, protests and politics; all depressing and scary. Our normal means of decompressing has been to escape for a while, ideally to the mountains and rivers, the fish, and the solitude or camaraderie as needed. For the past decade, SPFF has been the vehicle for me to do this, but we've had to cancel our meetings and trips; first the dinners and then HCR, and now we're debating whether to hold the



GSO. By July 2 it should be decided whether to go ahead in a limited fashion, to postpone or to cancel. Regardless, it won't be the same: no Saturday night dinner, no carpooling to the sites, no close teaching. Some of us who have places to stay have managed to

get to the Sierra and fish, and I'm told it has been great. Kevin Radanovich teases us with his great pictures, and Jim Fleisher had the Ranch to himself for a day.

It's hard to resist the urge to say the hell with it, I'm going fishing and what will be, will be. Unfortunately, the virus isn't taking a holiday over the summer and it looks like it will be with us for another year or more. Going to the park for a run or walk means being exposed to the irresponsible folks wearing their masks under their noses or chins, or none at all. A sense of being responsible for each other has yet to take hold despite the sentiments of the protests and the pundits. We will have to adjust as best we can, act like responsible adults and continue to keep apart, wear masks and sanitize everything. For me, not getting together with friends and family is the hardest part. I miss our weekly fly tying dinner and session, the monthly dinner and

Board meetings. Fly tying via Zoom, thanks to Michael Peratis, has been a godsend and a few of us are trying to set up cameras and lighting so we can teach as well. Monthly Zoom meetings sans dinner have been excellent, thanks to Marshall Bisset and his fellow program chairs at the other clubs but the attendance has been disappointing, only about 35 members, roughly the same as the attendance at the dinners. With all the time on our hands I would hope that many more of us would want to spend a couple of hours escaping into the world of fly fishing. Perhaps other online venues have taken over but this is an opportunity to see each other for a bit and to ask questions of our excellent presenters.

So far, I haven't heard of any of our members getting sick with Covid-19, so that's heartening. Keep safe, and if you do go fishing, keep us posted on your experience so that those of us who can't go can enjoy it vicariously. Cat White has set up an enhanced Facebook page to help keep us connected. I'm looking forward to doing it face to face when we can.

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President.....	Richard Ress
Vice President.....	Bernie Ecker
Secretary.....	Jody Martin
Treasurer.....	Mike Hembree
Calendar Maintenance	Tom Wright
Communications	Bill Luddy
Conservation.....	Open
Education	Steve Ebersold
Education Co-Chair.....	Michael Peratis
Head Fly Casting Instructor...	Marshall Bissett
Fundraising	Rich Hoffman
Librarian.....	Tom Wright
Membership.....	Jay Bushore
Newsletter Editor	Ed Swanson
Outings.....	Jim Fleisher
Programs.....	Marshall Bissett
Raffles	Steve Esgate
Social Media	Catrina White
Special Projects.....	Glenn Short
SWCFFI Representative.....	Tom Wright
Technical Advisor	Aran Dokovna
Web Master.....	Ren Colantoni
Women's Programs	Catrina White

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](https://spff.org/Project_Healing_Waters) for more information.

CASTING

by Richard Ress

Michael Peratis has agreed to begin our twice monthly casting practice at Balboa Lake, on our usual schedule of the first and third Saturday mornings at 9:00. If it is too crowded on Saturdays we may try a weekday. We will observe the following precautions:

1. Bring your own gear. We will not be using the Club rods.
2. Wear a mask. Gloves and/or hand sanitizer are advisable as well for any contact.
3. Maintain social distancing of 6 feet (1.8288 meters for the digitally inclined).

If you're as rusty as I am, you need to come!

OUTINGS

by Jim Fleisher

We mainly fly fish the Eastern Sierras and the Pacific coast. The *Surf Clinic & Outing* is in January; the *Super Bowl Outing and our ITFF Graduation* are in Bishop on the weekend of the Super Bowl; *Hot Creek Ranch* weekend is in June; and we especially look forward to the *Getting Started Outing* in the Mammoth Lakes area in July and the *Nymphing Clinic* in October. Visit spff.org/Outings for more details.

SPFF LIBRARY

by Tom Wright

Learn more about fly fishing. Please visit our vast Fly Fishing Library online at [spff.org/Library Catalog](https://spff.org/Library_Catalog).

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. SPFF always welcomes new members. New membership signup is at [spff.org/New Member Signup](https://spff.org/New_Member_Signup).

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFI

by Tom Wright

The Summer Quarterly meeting for the Southwest Council will be held on Saturday, July 18 from 10am to noon. This will be a remote meeting via ZOOM. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please contact Susi Wright at secretary@swcffi.org by Friday, July 17 so she can put you on the list to receive an invitation.

If you are unable to attend, the minutes of the meeting will be posted on the SPFF website in the Southwest Council FFI folder under Docs. and Downloads. There will also be a document that includes quarterly activity reports from each member of the SWC Board of Directors and from several SWC member clubs.

OUR NEW FFI CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

by Michael Peratis

On March 5th and 6th at Lake Charles, Louisiana, Jody Martin took and passed the FFI's CI (Certified Instructor) Performance & Written Tests. Jody is now one of SPFF's five FFI Certified Casting Instructors, along with Marshall Bissett, Paul Riegert, Leigh Ann Swanson and Dennis Tsuyuki.

All the hard work paid off.

CONGRATULATIONS!



FUN QUIZ TIME

by Jody Martin

This month's quiz is Roll Casts, Part 1. Part 2 will appear in the August newsletter, together with the answers to Part 1. Have fun!

1. T/F: One reason you might choose to perform a roll cast is because of an obstacle behind you that would make a backcast difficult.
2. T/F: The key to executing a proper roll cast is to bring the rod down sharply, as in a karate chop, rather than smoothly accelerating it to the stop.
3. T/F: One reason for executing a roll cast pick-up is because you want to aerialize a sink-tip or sinking line.
4. T/F: Another reason for executing a roll cast pick-up cast is because you have an obstacle behind you that is blocking you from executing an overhead cast.
5. T/F: The "D loop" of a roll cast is called that because of the combined shape of the straight fly rod and the curved fly line that hangs down from the tip of the rod behind you prior to the actual cast.
6. To intentionally create a wider loop on the forward cast, the caster could:
 - a. widen the casting arc on the forward cast by stopping later
 - b. keep the rod from bending on the backcast
 - c. perform a roll cast with a narrow rod arc and straight rod tip path
 - d. a and b but not c
 - e. a and c but not b
7. Which of the following are associated with a roll cast but not with an overhead cast?
 - a. anchor point
 - b. D loop
 - c. backcast
 - d. a and b but not c
 - e. a and c but not b
 - f. a, b, and c are all associated with and necessary for a roll cast
8. A cast where the line and loop formation on the back cast travels over the top of the rod tip is called a(n):
 - a. roll cast
 - b. aerial mend
 - c. water mend
 - d. overhead cast
 - e. roll cast pick-up
 - f. none of the above

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ (ON FISHES)

by Jody Martin

This month's quiz is Roll Casts, Part 1. Part 2 will appear in the August newsletter, together with the answers to Part 1. Have fun!

1. T/F: In the American West, brown trout and brook trout are both introduced (not naturally occurring) species.

True. Both brookies and browns have been introduced to the western states from other areas.

2. T/F: Brown trout are primarily piscivores (fish eaters), while brook, rainbow, and cutthroat trout eat only insects and insect larvae.

This one is tricky. The key is in the phrase "...eat only insects and insect larvae," which is not really true for any trout. Although browns are indeed much more piscivorous than are other trout species, all trout will attack and eat other fish given the chance, and all of them will also eat scuds, crayfish, spiders, leeches, and other non-insect items. So that rules out the "...eat only insects and insect larvae" part, making the answer False. Not a great question, because the first half – about browns being primarily piscivores – is true.

3. T/F: In stillwater lakes and reservoirs, trout will eat snails.

True. Maybe also in streams (I don't know for sure), but definitely in ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. There are a handful of flies designed to imitate snails (although none of the flies looks like a snail to me).

4. T/F: California's Golden trout are actually considered a subspecies of rainbow trout.

Another very difficult question. To some degree, the answer depends on who you ask, with even the biologists unsure for many years. For most of the last 40 years, the goldens were treated as, and scientifically named, a subspecies of rainbow. Rainbows are *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, and goldens were referred to as *Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*, a subspecies of the Rainbow. It's clear that the goldens are closely related to, and in fact evolved from, the rainbows sometime within the last 10,000 years. However, beginning around 2012 it was decided by fish biologists that the *aguabonita* strain was genetically distinct enough to be treated as a separate species. And so today, *Oncorhynchus aguabonita* is the scientific name of the golden trout, a distinct species that is endemic to high elevations in California. SO . . . the answer is False today (it is not a subspecies of rainbow), but it

would have been True had I asked it 10 years ago. Science is like that, always changing in light of new information. And so today our state fish, the Golden Trout, is now considered a distinct species

5. T/F: Brown trout were introduced to the United States from Asia in the late 1800s.

False. Brown trout were introduced to North America in the late 1880s, but from Europe rather than from Asia. There were several different introductions, but most books say that the most significant of these introductions involved browns brought over from Germany.

6. T/F: Rainbow trout are the only trout species that occur naturally (i.e. were not introduced) on all continents.

False. Rainbows are not found on all continents (in fact no trout species are found in Antarctica), and although they are now found all over the world, they are native to the northern Pacific rim and have been introduced elsewhere. There is no species of trout that occurs naturally on all continents.

7. T/F: Nymphing from a drift boat is often considered the most difficult way to catch trout since most trout feed on floating insects.

False. Most trout feed below the surface at a ratio of about 5:1 over surface feeding.

8. T/F: A "tiger trout" is a hybrid produced by the mating of a male brook trout with a female brown trout.

True. It happens sometimes (very rarely) in nature, in areas where the two species co-occur, but it is more often due to an intentional crossing in a fish hatchery. I've never heard about the other possibility (a male brown with a female brookie), so this must not be possible. All tiger trout are infertile.

9. T/F: Bull trout are thought to be extinct throughout the state of California.

True. According to the Angler's Guide to the California Heritage Trout Challenge (published by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2017), "The last documented sighting of a bull trout in California was in 1975. They are believed to have been extirpated from this state because of habitat loss from dams and direct competition from introduced brown trout. They are not extinct, however, as bull trout can still be found in other parts of their historic range in the western United States."

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S FUN QUIZ (CONT.)

(Continued from page 7)

10. Which of the following fly fishing targets are not salmonids?

- a. brown trout
- b. permit
- c. tarpon
- d. sockeye salmon
- e. b and c
- d. b and d

Answer: e (both b, the permit and c, the tarpon, are not salmonids. The others are.)

11. Which of the following "trout" species are actually "char"?

- a. rainbow trout and golden trout
- b. brook trout and bull trout
- c. cutthroat trout and Apache trout
- d. brown trout and coastal cutthroat trout
- e. none of the above are char; all are true trout
- f. "char" is just another name for "trout," so it does not matter

Answer: b. Both brookies and bull trout are actually char, which are closely related to trout (they are all in the salmonid family) but are not considered trout.

12. Because most trout species are considered "cold water" fish, feeding is, generally speaking, most likely to take place within which range of temperatures?

- a. about 20 to 34 degrees F (- 7 to 1 degrees C)
- b. about 35 to 49 degrees F (2 to 9.5 degrees C)
- c. about 50 to 68 degrees F (10 to 20 degrees C)
- d. about 70 to 85 degrees F (21 to 29 degrees C)

Answer: c. Choice b (35 to 49F) is slightly too cold, even though on some days you can find trout feeding at these cold temperatures, and d (70-85F) is too warm for most trout to be active. Because this is a "general" question, without hard boundaries, I seriously doubt if it would be on the CI test. Although there are enough hedges in the question to get by.

13. A reasonable setup for fishing for bonefish might include

- a. an 8-foot rod rated for 5 weight line, a 4-weight sink-tip fly line, and a 6X leader
- b. a 9-foot rod rated for 3 weight line, an 8-weight floating fly line, and a 20 lb leader
- c. a 10-foot rod rated for 12 weight line, a 6-weight sinking fly line, and a 7X leader
- d. a and c but not b
- e. b and c would both work
- f. none of the above would be a reasonable choice

Answer: f. None of these is reasonable for bonefish. In fact, it is pretty rare that you would ever want to fish with a rod designed for one weight, but with line that is not matched to that rod, although "overlining" a light rod is sometimes done.

14. In terms of fly fishing for trout, which are the three most important orders (groups) of insects?

- a. grasshoppers, ants, scuds
- b. midges, mosquitos, dragonflies
- c. moths, stoneflies, craneflies
- d. mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies
- e. crayfish, mayflies, spiders
- f. none of the above

Answer: d. Although other answers include larger food items (such as grasshoppers, and crayfish), the most commonly eaten insect groups are the mayflies, caddis, and stoneflies.

15. Which rod is best suited for larger bass, steelhead, salmon, and bonefish?

- a. a 9-foot, 8-weight tip-flex rod
- b. a 9-foot, 5-weight tip-flex rod
- c. a 7-foot, 6-weight full-flex rod
- d. an 8 ½ -foot, 4-weight mid-flex rod
- e. both b and d would be good choices

Answer: a (of the available choices, this is really the only one that would be strong enough for handling all of these species. Maybe you could get away with using a 6 weight, but that option (choice c) is a softer, full-flex rod, and a pretty short rod. So choice a is the better option.

16. A good place to expect to find a large trout in a stream would be:

- a. in the exposed center of the stream where the greatest current is found
- b. in the relatively calm water behind a large rock or log
- c. in the warmest and least oxygenated shallows
- d. all of the above
- e. none of the above

Answer: b. It helps to remember that trout are basically lazy and don't want to work for their food. (Just like me.)

LESSONS ON GUIDED TRIPS

by Dave Jolie (*reprinted with permission from RiverBum.com*)

I been very fortunate in life to be able to have gone on many of a guided fly-fishing trip. There are several things I've learned along the way.

Roll With The Punches

Guides are paid to know their waters, provide instruction, and put you on fish. They do not control the weather, the snowpack, or others on the river. I've fished the "Salmon Fly Hatch" with [RiverBum Pro Jim Mitchell](#) several times. There were occasions where we actually fished the Blackfoot throwing big orange flip flop in the water seeing rainbows, browns and cutties explode on the big bugs. Then there were the other times where that hatch was earlier, later etc. and a salmon fly wouldn't catch a cold.

Good guides book early. You really only have two choices. One, wait to the last minute to determine when whatever desired hatch is you are trying to hit and hope for a cancellation. Two, roll with the punches baby.

Every Year is Different

Every year we are blessed with a new river. Snowpack varies, run off varies, structure in the water moves, holes are created and destroyed. All these differences affect water levels, flows and temperature.

With Western and Rocky Mountain early hatches, it can be a challenge hitting them just right. Notable hatches like the [Skwala](#), [March Brown](#), [Salmon Fly](#), and [Yellow stones](#). Not only are you going to have a timing issue, but a river conditions to deal with as well. The Clark Fork near Regis, Montana can go from 1,500 cfs to over 50,000cfs! That's a lot of water pushing down the river. Want to hit the Salmon Fly hatch? There's general a period where it drops from 40,000cfs to 20,000cfs as the first push of lower level snow pack has melted off. When is that? The first week of June.....sort of....then you'll get another push of higher elevation snow melt right after that getting you up to an unfishable and dangerous 50,000cfs.

It's All About Expectations

This is where rolling with the punches and a good mental outlook comes to play. No guide should put you in a dangerous situation. But you flew all the way to Montana to fish. These hatches are epic, they really are. Understand that there's a 50/50 shot you are going to hit them.

You can look at it one of two ways. One, your trip is ruined and look at it as a waste of money. Two, you have the opportunity to fish a different way, a different river, a different hatch. On one trip with Jim trying to hit the Salmon Fly hatch on the Blackfoot that didn't happen, Jim introduced me to the Brindle Chute on the Bitterroot. Its little-known secret weapon out west. Man, did we catch fish. That day on the far more fishable Bitterroot, it was all about the Bridle Chute with a Lightning Bug dropper. I loved this fly so much that I immediately had it commercially tied for RiverBum. Flash forward a couple of years later, I'm fishing a native brook trout stream with Jeff Gensheimer, tie one of these babies on, and started smashing brookies!

Etiquette

Guides work their tails off for a living and don't make a ton of money, even some of the famous ones with TV shows and Podcasts. Do yourself a favor, try to learn something. These folks teach for a living. It'd be a shame not to learn something. Get some casting lessons, learn to fish a different way than you normally do, or try something you haven't tried before. I guarantee you'll have a better experience than if you're drunk and obnoxious. Guides are humans too. How do you think they are going to work harder for, someone that is respectful and wants to learn something or someone being a putz?

Tippling is a personal issue. If I can't afford the tip and the trip, I don't go. Each to their own. My tip is always a direct reflection of the skill and effort, not necessarily whether or not I caught the biggest and most. I remember fondly a trip with Hilary Hutcherson on the Middle fork of the Flathead where the trip was all about fishing with my then 7-year-old daughter Maddie. It was a fantastic experience; one I have burned into my memory.

That's it for now my fishy friends. We only have this one beautiful mother nature, take care of her. Pack it in, Pack it Out

Tight Lines and Screaming Drags.



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

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

Patagonia Santa Monica

1344 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90401
310-395-6895

Real Cheap Sports

235 W. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074



Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers proudly supports the conservation efforts of:



dfg.ca.gov/fishing



caltrout.org



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

flyfishersinternational.org



tu.org