

Santa Cruz
Fly Fishermen
Est. 1977



To promote,
educate, and
enjoy the sport
of fly fishing

FEBRUARY

2020

CLUB MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 5th
Time: Open - 6:45 PM
Meeting - 7:00 PM
Place: Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

Return of the Giants
Jurassic Cutthroat Trout of Pyramid Lake
Guest Speaker: Joe Contaldi



This presentation will cover lake history, peak angling times, shoreline fishing with custom ladder chairs, wading, gear and fly selection. Joe will also go over stillwater tactics from a boat on this world class fishery. This informative Jurassic trout presentation is not to be missed! Pyramid Lake has become a bucket list destination!

Joe Contaldi is a licensed guide since 1996, on the waters of the Eastern Sierra. He is the lead guide and owner of Performance Anglers Guide Service and Pyramid Lake Anglers Guide Service, based in Mammoth Lakes, California.

He is a dedicated fly fishing enthusiast who fishes both salt and fresh water. He is patient, courteous and a true professional who pays attention to his clients' needs. Joe enjoys working with all levels of anglers from the beginner to the advanced. Joe takes the time to make sure that his clients walk away a better angler and create memories of a lifetime. This man truly loves what he does, and his enthusiasm is catching! This passion for fishing has driven him to turn what most people consider a hobby into a lifestyle. He is a Celebrity Speaker at the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton, CA. He has been quoted in many articles, books and has been a featured Guest Host on many radio shows. Joe is committed to giving back to the community with many donated trips to programs such as Project Healing Waters, Wounded Warriors and fly fishing club youth activities.

During October through May, Joe spends his guiding time at Pyramid Lake, Nevada.

Joe is currently an ambassador for Aquaz Fishing Gear and resides in Mammoth Lakes, CA, with his wife Julia, and sons Quinn and Logan. In his off time, Joe enjoys fishing and spending time with his family.

FLY TYING CLASS

Date: Wednesday, February 12th, 2020.
Time: Open - 6:45 p.m.
Class - 7:00 p.m.
Place: Aptos Grange Hall, 2225 Mar Vista Drive, Aptos

Sand Crab

Instructor: Elaine Cook - (831) 688-1561



Get ready for the surf and those perch and if you're lucky, a striper! Sam will have monthly fishouts locally starting in the Spring. See Newsletter for dates.

Sign up at the club meeting or by calling Elaine with at least 24-hour notice. If you sign up and later find you are unable to attend, notice of cancellation is appreciated. Beginners are always welcome, and there is equipment and thread available. All materials are provided except thread. Bring tan or grey 3/0 monocrord, flat waxed nylon, or other strong thread. Classes are free!

What's Inside:

President's Line, Membership Notes.....	p.2
2019-20 Boards, Fishout Schedule.....	p.3
Catchy Releases.....	p.4
Catchy Releases (cont'd.), Monthly Raffle, Gearing Up (Roostercomb).....	p.5
LifeLines.....	p.6
LifeLines (cont'd.), Reel News, BIG Thank You, Bait for Thought.....	p.7
Gearing Up (Pyramid Lake).....	p.8
Fly of the Month, Recipe of the Month.....	p.9
Cartoon, Moon Phases.....	p.10
Calendar.....	p.11

President's Line

Retirement

By President Tom Hogye

In 1991, I visited the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen for the first time. I was new to fly fishing and found the club to be an awesome resource for learning about fly fishing. Everyone was super friendly and the resources for everything from casting improvements, where to fish, what to use, fly-tying classes. SCFF published a newsletter. It was a few pages, one color, stapled together and mailed to the members.

About that same time in 1991, Pat Steele became interested in our newsletter and began collecting more information, newsworthy items, a calendar of events, a New Members section, a place where members could advertise. She put our newsletter into a magazine format, sort of, and we went "color"-two colors, to be exact-green and black! Back then the NCFFF (Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers International) gave out awards for the best newsletter. SCFF received that award so many times, the NCFFF had to stop giving it out. Many in California and around the country knew about SCFF because of that newsletter and heard how good it was. I can tell you that I personally loved getting that newsletter in the mail every month, and can attest to having many of those older copies, to this day. Each month, Pat and her newsletter helpers, Elaine, Kirk and others, methodically collected your letters, notes, schedules, fish outs, photos, and other fly-fishing related tidbits and put them in their respective places so you could get that award-winning newsletter every month. I would venture to say that even today, our newsletter contains more good content than any other club publication-every month.

When I was first president in 1997, Pat was so supportive and encouraging. She made my President's Messages better and always came up with a great photo to go with it. I still have a letter she wrote to me after my first three years as President because those words meant more to me than anything-still do.

Then came the internet. By then Pat was already "coding" and took the reins putting the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen on the world-wide web. It was now a full-color version of our newsletter, on the internet, and a couple of years' worth of back issues available, with additional static information you'd find in a website. But we were such a club devoted to each other and our events, far away from technology, the website was a great way to get our newsletter out. It didn't seem cost-effective to mail the print newsletter anymore. With an e-mail and a .pdf, you could print your own, in full color and cheaper than we could mail it to you, no waiting!

Then came smart phones, cameras on your phone, and things like Facebook, Instagram and a much broader presence in the world. SCFF was maturing and entering the 21st century. Our membership coordinator now uses "Square" to take your membership dues, and others have been asking if they can join online, make a donation to our scholarship fund-I guess to make ourselves more relevant, despite having a nice Facebook page, it seems we now need to have our own Instagram account.

For the last 29 years, Pat Steele has flawlessly delivered our newsletter and subsequent web content to all of you, every month, on time. With her husband John Steele, they have contributed to SCFF generously, managed to travel almost every month, to some location in the world in pursuit of fly fishing, hunting and the great outdoors and host the board meetings at their house. But it's time to pass the torch and to that I suppose these last two President's messages will be Pat's final contribution as Webmaster, Newsletter Publisher. With that will bring opportunities for SCFF to move into the 21st Century sooner rather than later. Not sure what that will bring, but we're excited and grateful for Pat and John, and for the club.

Whole heartedly and gratefully yours. Thank you, Pat. I'm all else, otherwise-without words. - Tom



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Google Groups

By Membership Director Bob Peterson

The Board is pursuing Google Groups as an interactive email communication that allows for members to communicate as a collective group to send emails, attachments, pictures, agenda notices, good guide recommendations, and e-mail blasts and will be helpful in the transition into 2020. By March as the parameters and options are pursued, we will have more information for all members.

More information can be found on the web under Google Groups:

The new Google Groups is an improved way to participate in online discussions.

*All of your discussions in one place

Organize with favorites and folders, choose to follow along via email, and quickly find unread posts.

*Express yourself

Use rich-text editing to customize your posts with fonts, colors, and images.

*People power discussions

Use photos, nicknames, and automatic translations to share your thoughts with the world.

*Speed matters

Keyboard shortcuts and a streamlined design mean you won't spend time waiting to read and get involved. Press "?" to see the full list of shortcuts.



2019 Board of Directors

The SCFF thanks the outgoing board members for their service.

Officers:

President: Tom Hogue 214-7578
 Vice President: Kevin Murdock 688-4518
 Treasurer: Jim Tolonen 475-8859
 Secretary: Angela Johnson (530) 320-

Committees:

Monthly Raffle: Jeff Goyert 462-3785
 Fishouts: John Cook 688-1561
 Newsletter Editor: Kirk Mathew 724-6811
 Webmaster/Newsletter: Pat Steele 476-0648
 Programs: Jim Black 688-8174
 Conservation: Steve Rudzinski 462-4532
 Membership: Bob Peterson 251-8655
 Fly Tying Master: Elaine Cook 688-1561
 Annual Raffle/Silent Auction: John Steele 476-0648
 Annual Fund Raiser Coordinator: Mark Traugott 338-6056
 Marketing/Publicity: Michael McGannon 688-3025
 Facilities Coordinator: Stephen Rawson 588-9370

Ex Officio:

Fly Casting Master: Sam Bishop 476-6451

Member At Large:

Kathy Powers 728-4130

2020 Board of Directors

The SCFF welcomes the incoming board and pledges our support.

Officers:

President: Tom Hogue 214-7578
 Vice President: Kevin Murdock 688-4518
 Treasurer: Jim Tolonen 475-8859
 Secretary: Angela Johnson (530) 320- 3352

Committees:

Monthly Raffle: Jeff Goyert 462-3785
 Fishouts: John Cook 688-1561
 Newsletter Editor: Position Vacant as of March 1st
 Webmaster/Newsletter: Position Vacant as of March 1st
 Programs: Jim Black 688-8174
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Ex Officio:

Fly Casting Master: Sam Bishop 476-6451

Member At Large:

Kathy Powers 728-4130

Board Meeting: The board meeting is usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at the home of John and Pat Steele, 331 Cabrillo Ave., Santa Cruz, at 7 PM. Club members will be notified of any changes of meeting dates and locations. Club members are all welcome and need to submit any agenda items to the President ahead of time.

News: Members are encouraged to contribute news items. Submit copy to the editor, Kirk Mathew, 724-5611, k4mathew@sbcglobal.net. Please see calendar for the deadline each month.



Fishout Schedule

Date:	Location:	Target Species:	Fishmaster:
Late March	Los Baños Creek Reservoir	Bass and Bluegill	Dan Eaton 336-2933
Mar. 15-21	Pyramid Lake, NV	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	Mike White -706-5556
Apr. 25th	Los Padres Reservoir	Trout	Roy Gunter - 809-0316
April 17-19	Roostercomb Ranch	Bass	Cecilia Stipes - 335-5727
May 1-2	Roostercomb Ranch	Bass	Cecilia Stipes - 335-5727
May 31	Quail Hollow	Public Outreach	TBA
July 11-17	Green River, UT	Trout	John Steele - 476-0648
July TBA	Loreto, Baja Mexico	Salt Water Fishing	Rich Hughett - 757-5709
Sept. 19-26	Mammoth Lakes #1	Trout	John Cook - 688-1561
Sept. 26-Oct. 3	Mammoth Lakes #2	Trout	John Cook - 688-1561
Oct. 15-18	O'Neill Forebay	Striped Bass	Steve Rudzinski - 462-4532
Monthly TBA	Local Beaches	Surf Fishing	Sam Bishop - 476-6451

Fishouts are one of the most enjoyed activities our club offers. I highly recommend club members to attend and possibly organize one. If you are thinking of sponsoring a club fishout, please give me a call. Club fishouts can be structured in many ways, from simple to involved. I will be glad to help you put one together. Call me, John Cook, at 688-1561.

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Check it periodically, and contact the fishmaster listed if you have any questions about a specific outing.

Catchy Releases

Coho Salmon Scarce in Marin County Tally By Peter Fimrite, *San Francisco Chronicle*

The pouring rain this winter brought with it a buoyant optimism among fisheries experts about the celebrated run of coho salmon in western Marin County, but the expected swarm of leaping pink fish never showed up.

Fewer than 90 coho have made their way up meandering, forested Lagunitas Creek and laid eggs on the northwest side of Mount Tamalpais, one of California's last great strongholds for embattled wild salmon that have never mingled with hatchery-bred fish.

It is among the worst showings of the coldwater loving coho in nearly a quarter century, and researchers are trying to figure out what went wrong.

"We've been collecting this data for 24 years, and this is likely to be the second lowest count we've seen in that time," said Eric Ettlenger, the aquatic ecologist for the Marin Municipal Water District, one of four agencies that conduct the annual spawning surveys. "It's quite bad."

The season isn't quite over - Thursday's rain will probably inspire a few more salmon to wriggle their way into the waterway before the spawning window closes at the end of the month. So far, though, only 44 egg clusters, known as "redds," have been counted in Lagunitas and its tributaries, including San Geronimo, Woodacre, Arroyo and Olema creeks.

The worst spawning year was 200809, when only 26 redds were counted in the watershed. The average annual count is 250 nests going back to 1995, when the water district, Watershed Stewards Program, National Park Service and the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network began annual surveys.

The paltry showing comes despite plenty of rain - about equal to the long term average - which is usually a big help to anadromous fish. Heavy rains last year were credited with attracting more than 700 spawning coho, which deposited 369 egg nests in the watershed.

Because a male and female produce each egg cluster, the number of fish is calculated by doubling the number of redds. "Normally, we'd see the fish holding in deeper pools between storms waiting to migrate upstream from Tomales Bay, but we're not seeing that," said Todd Steiner, executive director of the watershed network, known as Spawn. "So the \$60 million question is: Why?"

The reasons aren't clear. The half dozen or so river otters that frequent the watershed clearly take a toll, but biologists think something else is killing them off.

One clue, Ettlenger said, is the fact that 7,800 coho entered the ocean 18 months ago when they were juveniles, or smolts - the halfway point in their lives. The returns this year at age 3 mean only about 1 percent of them survived. That's compared with the longterm survival rate of about 4 percent, he said.

What that means is that an unusually high number of coho died in the ocean.

Bill Sydeman, a biological oceanographer and senior scientist with the Farallon Institute, said there probably wasn't enough for the coho to eat in 2018 when they swam out to sea.

Higher than normal water temperatures disrupted the food web that year, killing off most of the tiny crustaceans known as krill.

"We had low food availability for the smolts," Sydeman said. "As a result, they either starve or they are weak and are subject to more predation."

Sea lions and other ocean predators, like orcas, eat salmon, but many of these fish eaters have also suffered as a result of the temperature fluctuations, which have been linked to toxic algae blooms, starfish, and seaweed die-offs and other problems in the ocean ecosystem.

"We're dealing with animals that have this very complicated life cycle, where they live in rivers and

streams and then they go out in the ocean, and it all has to align correctly," Sydeman said. "With climate change - we are going to see more swings in production. It's something we should expect more of in the future."

It's an issue not only because of concern over the survival of the Marin salmon run but because the annual migration is a spectacle that attracts thousands of spectators to Samuel P. Taylor State Park and other viewing areas over the course of each winter.

The crimson-tinted fish swim from the ocean into Tomales Bay and then travel 33 miles through the redwood and oak-studded San Geronimo Valley, where half their spawning grounds are in towns like Forest Knolls, Lagunitas, San Geronimo and Woodacre.

Three years ago, when the parents of this year's coho gave birth to them, surveyors counted 170 egg nests, below normal but not particularly worrisome. Clearly, conditions have gotten worse for their offspring, Steiner and Ettlenger said.

Despite the problems this year, the Lagunitas watershed is home to the largest run of wild coho between Humboldt and Monterey counties, where hatchery-raised coho dominate.

At least 10,000 coho once swam through the picturesque valley and bred in tributaries that snaked all the way up the side of Mount Tamalpais. They were once so plentiful that, legend has it, folks could spear them from decks overlooking the creek.

The fish continued to thrive despite rampant logging and construction of five major dams, starting in 1873. The spectacular runs finally came to a halt when Seeger Dam, which formed Nicasio Reservoir, was built in 1961, wiping out the salmon population in Nicasio Creek.

All together, the dams blocked 50 percent of the historic spawning habitat in the Lagunitas watershed.

It's not an isolated problem. Coho, also known as silver salmon, now total only about 1 percent of their historic population along the coasts of California and Oregon. Central California coho were listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in 1996.

The federal Coho Recovery Plan, by the National Marine Fisheries Service, says a population of 2,600 spawning fish must be maintained for 10 years in the Lagunitas water-



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shed before the species can be upgraded to threatened. The best winter since biologists began keeping annual records in 1994 was 200405, when 1,342 coho were counted.

The water district and watershed network have been working together for years trying to improve fish habitat in the creeks and were hoping last year's surge was a sign that things were getting better. The two recently collaborated on a project that used state and federal grants to build floodplains for coho

along the creek where the towns of Tocaloma and Jewell once stood.

People living in the area have participated in habitat restoration programs - including school work parties - and Marin County has limited creekside development to protect the fish.

"We are trying to repair the mistakes of the past and give these fish a fighting chance," said Steiner, who, despite the paltry run, is adamant that the restoration work has helped. "Without these efforts, we might have no returning fish this year."

MONTHLY RAFFLE

PYRAMID/PYRAMID/PYRAMID/PYRAMID

By Monthly Raffle Director Jeff Goyert

Want to guess what the raffle is about this month? You got it, PYRAMID!

They don't call Pyramid Lake "The Land of the Giants" because of some sports team, rather it is because Pyramid Lake means BIG fish. You really don't want to tie into one of these double-digit bruisers with your old favorite 6 weight, it would be just asking to get your butt kicked up and down the beach in front of God and everybody. Better to win a big gun 8 weight ION XL from Echo matched with a large arbor Rulon disc drag ION Echo reel. Whether you are stripping a beetle or floating a midge this rod and reel is up to the task.

First time to Pyramid? Yes, a step ladder is pretty much needed to help you put your time in at the lake. To that end, we've got a slick four and half foot Gorilla ladder with wide platform steps topped with one of Sam's custom stripping baskets. Perfect to get up out of the frigid Pyramid water and to provide an elevated casting platform.



Ok, you have the proper rod and reel, you have a ladder to fish from, what else could you need? Oh, yeah how about some custom killer flies!

Our guest speaker tonight, Guide Joe Contaldi, has donated a "guides' box" of his favorite Pyramid Lake flies. Leeches, midges, nymphs, buggers; a little bit of everything. When you Meet Joe, thank him for his donation.

DOOR PRIZE DOOR PRIZE DOOR PRIZE

Everyone gets a free ticket!

Tonight, we have a couple of the ever popular "CATCH AND RELEASE" plate frames. Great looking on your vehicle and a great conversation starter.

GEARING UP

Roostercomb Ranch Fishouts

April 17-19 and May 1-3, 2020

Fishmaster: Cecilia Stipes - (831) 335-5727 - fishgal3@aol.com



This is our club's 21st annual fishout to the Roostercomb Ranch, owned and operated by Scott Wilkinson. This private ranch is located adjacent to Henry Coe State Park, 22 miles off Hwy 152 from the entrance which is 5 miles from Casa de Fruta Restaurant in Hollister. It is a 3-day fun-filled weekend with fishing 9 bass ponds, hiking, birding and photography on nearly 6,000 acres. The ponds are primarily fished from float tubes or from the bank using woolly buggers and poppers. You can also bring conventional spin rods and gear. Accommodations are the 1928 ranch house and a cowboy bunk house, or if you prefer, your own tent or vehicle.

Breakfasts and dinner meals/barbecues are organized by teams. Lunches, snacks and beverages are individuals' responsibilities. For more details, please feel free to call me. The terrain is rough, rocky and sometimes steep; therefore **all vehicles MUST be 4-WD or AWD with good clearance to drive in and around the ranch!** If you do not have a 4-WD vehicle, I can make arrangements for you to carpool with other members or with Scott. Non-fishers are always welcome. Each fishout is limited to 15 fishers and 4 non-fishers. **NOTE:** You are only able to call in for yourself and your partner, and children.

COST: \$250 /person (no charge for children 12 yrs and under). The earliest sign-up for either or both fishouts, is by phone call: **Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm. Your confirmation is not complete until I receive your check!**

Check payable to: Cecilia Stipes Mail: 328 Capelli Drive, Felton, CA 95018



LifeLines

How To Know if Ice is Safe

From <https://m.wikihow.com/Know-When-Ice-is-Safe>

Walking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice fishing (with or without a car), cross-country skiing, skating, and playing sports are dangerous pastimes when you don't know how to tell if ice is thick enough to withstand weight. There are ways to assist in gauging the potential safety of ice, such as observing its color, testing its thickness and being aware of external factors such as temperature, local conditions and local knowledge. However, no sport undertaken on ice over water bodies is ever without risk. If in doubt, do not go onto the ice; moreover, it never pays to be too early or too late in the season.

1. Recognize that ice will never be completely safe. Conditions and unseen or unknown factors can render seemingly safe ice suddenly dangerous. Take all care and precautions to avoid mishaps and to put rescue plans into immediate action should something go wrong.

2. Create an emergency safety plan. Tell people where you are going. If something does go wrong while you are testing or recreating, already have in place the safety procedures that you will carry out for immediate rescue.

For starters, you should be adequately dressed in full cold weather attire. Wear some form of flotation device, even a boating life-jacket, especially if you are testing or snowmobiling. Carry an ice-pick which can assist in giving you grip should you fall in. Never go without a buddy or two. Tell other people where you and your buddy are and what time you expect to return home. This is not an occasion for casual spontaneity.

Have a spare set of warm dry clothes in a waterproof bag handy. That way you can reduce the risk of hypothermia by changing the wet clothes immediately. Other useful supplies to have as part of an emergency kit include an emergency blanket, hand and foot warmers, thick socks, spare tuques, candles and matches. Pack such emergency items for all winter sports outdoors, even for skating outdoors.

3. Recognize that determining the safety of ice is dependent on a combination of factors, not on one factor alone. Ice safety is determined by assessing the following factors together:

- * Appearance of the ice - its color, texture and features
- * Thickness of the ice - there are recommended thicknesses for different uses, which are set out below
- * External temperature over a period of time and on the day
- * Snow coverage
- * Depth of water under ice
- * Size of water body
- * Chemical composition of water - whether water is fresh or salt
- * Local climate fluctuations
- * Extent of ice

4. Prefer ice that is checked by designated authorities on a regular basis. Such authorities may be staff at resorts, clubs or national parks or they may be government officials. At a minimum, such checking should occur daily. Ask them about their procedures if you need to know more to satisfy yourself. In

the main, they will have access to quality measurement tools and procedures, along with full training in dealing with ice and ice accidents. This will save you the risk of testing and can reassure you. Nevertheless, continue to take all safety precautions.

5. Ask the locals. If you're from «outta town», don't make any assumptions. Stop at the grocery store, bait shop, local ski store and have a chat, or even drop into a police or fire station and ask questions about the known danger spots and safer spots in the area. People would rather help you out now than have to haul you out later.

6. Observe the ice. Look at the ice to see if you can see any cracks, breaks, weak spots or abnormal surfaces and to identify the color(s) of the ice. You cannot rely on your eyesight alone. This is just an initial look to help you to decide if it is even worth proceeding to the next step of testing the ice. If you see any of these signs, you may wish to abandon any further attempt to go on the ice:

- * Flowing water near or at the edges of the ice
- * Flowing springs under the ice in

spring fed ponds and lakes.

- * Water flows in and/or out of the iced-over water body
 - * Cracks, breaks or holes
 - * Ice that appears to have thawed and refrozen
 - * Abnormal surfaces that you have not seen before - e.g., pressure ridges caused by currents or winds
- Remember this ditty: "Thick and blue, tried and true; Thin and crispy, way too risky."

7. Know your ice color meanings. Although a useful indicator, color alone should not be relied upon. For instance, ice of any color subjected to a running water force underneath will be weaker than ice not subject to that pressure. In general, you can surmise the following from ice colors:

- * Light gray to dark black - Melting ice, occurs even if air temperature is below 32°F (0°C). Not safe, its weak density can't hold a load, stay off.
- * White to Opaque - Water-saturated snow freezes on top of ice forming another thin ice layer. Most times it's weak due to being porous from air pockets.
- * Blue to Clear - High density, very strong, safest ice to be on if thick enough, stay off if less than 4 inches (10 cm) thick.
- * Mottled and slushy or "rotten" ice - not so much its color but its texture. This ice is thawing and slushy. It is deceptive - it may seem thick at the top but it is rotting away at the center and base. Most prevalent in spring, may be showing signs of browns from plant tannins, dirt and other natural materials that are resurfacing from thawing. Not suitable for even a footstep.

8. Test the thickness of the ice. If you have already made your observations and you still feel confident, you will need to back this up by checking the thickness of the ice. Test with at least one other person (the buddy system). Wear a flotation suit or device and use ropes that your buddy can pull on if something goes wrong.



Only go on the ice if the edge of the water body is firm. If it is slushy or cracking, it is unlikely to be safe to proceed as shoreline ice is the weakest.

Chip the ice with an axe or hatchet to create a small hole in the ice, or use an ice auger (a special tool which drills into the ice), for measuring the thickness through. Use a measuring device to determine the thickness.

Learn the thickness safety margins of ice. There are recommended thickness measurements for the safety of ice that you will need to establish to for each activity being undertaken. (N.B. These are recommended, not guaranteed.) Ice begins to be "safe" at around 4 - 6 inches thickness. Do not even walk on ice 3" or less in thickness. However, even at a 9" - 10" thickness, there may be unforeseen hazards such as a flowing current underneath that is ceaselessly weakening the underside of the ice. In this instance, even the thickness is not a good indicator of safety, as the ice could collapse at any time.

In general, the rules for ice thickness measurements are:

- * 3" (7 cm) (new ice) - KEEP OFF
 - * 4" (10 cm) - suitable for ice fishing, cross-country skiing and walking (approx. 200 pounds)
 - * 5" (12 cm) - suitable for a single snowmobile or ATV (approx. 800 pounds)
 - * 8" - 12" (20 - 30 cm) - suitable for one car, group of people (approx. 1500 - 2000 pounds)
 - * 12" - 15" (30 - 38 cm) - suitable for a light pickup truck or a van
- These are commonly cited measurements.

9. Understand that ice strength is not the same everywhere, not even on the same body of water. The strength of ice is also affected by factors other than color and thickness. Also take into account:

Location of the ice: is it on a pond, a lake, a stream or is there evident flowing water underneath it? Is there a flow into or out of the water body? This will give cause for concern.

Constitution of the water: is it fresh water or saltwater? Sea ice tends to be weaker and needs greater thickness to support the same weight as fresh water. See the External Links below for more information on exact measurements.

External temperature and season: temperature changes constantly. Beware microclimates in the local area. Mid-winter ice is bound to be a lot stronger than spring ice which is subject to rapid thawing and warming bouts of sunshine.

Size and depth of the water body: larger bodies of water take longer to freeze than smaller ones.

Presence of snow on the ice: snow can warm up the ice because it acts as an insulator; ice under snow is generally thinner and weaker than ice without snow.

Weight on ice: what are you putting on the ice? Just you or you and a vehicle? There is a big difference in the weight distribution between a body and a snowmobile with said body on top.

10. Find alternatives if in any doubt. Skaters can always find a rink or a supervised lake area; snowmobilers and skiers can always stick to trails on land in place of crossing ice; walkers can keep off the ice and continue with their snowshoes along the trail. All out-goers should carry emergency supplies no matter how long they plan to be out nor where they plan to go.

Reel News

* SCFF Member Tim Loomis's Booth at the Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show!

Tim Loomis will have a booth at the Pleasanton Fly Fishing show Feb. 21-23. He will be representing Aquaz waders (OEM for all of Patagonia's fly gear), along with WETSOX, the neoprene knee length sock worn under your waders to enhance warmth and ease of removal. Many of the club members have already bought them. The WETSOX are perfect for Pyramid Lake whether you are standing on a ladder, float tubing or walking the beach. They now come in 1.5mm and 3mm weights.

If any members have any questions regarding the two brands, they can call or email Tim: timloomis@bigsurstyles.com / 831-345-8411.



BIG THANK YOU!

A Huge Thank You
From Sam Bishop



I would thank my good friends for their support to have Coho Salmon for our very successful "Wild Caught Salmon Feed". **Bob Ciapponi, Jim Zenner, Bill Schuette and Rod Seigle** all caught the fish with me in Alaskan rivers (Prince of Wales Island) and they were the cooking team for our party. For years they have attended our annual fundraisers, but our meeting nights conflict with their Native Sons of the Golden West meeting nights, so we never see them at ours.

* Pleasanton Fly Show - February 21-23 - Alameda County Fairgrounds

Fri.-10 AM-6 PM; Sat.-9 AM-5:30 PM, Sun.-9 AM-4:30 PM

Adults: 1 day - \$15, 2 days - \$25, 3 days - \$35

Children - under 5 - free, ages 6-12 - \$5

Scouts under 16 in uniform - free - Military with ID - \$10

For more details and to purchase advance tickets, go to flyfishingshow.com/pleasanton-ca/

Bait for Thought

World Peace

"If all politicians fished instead of spoke publicly, we would be at peace with the world." - Will Rogers

GEARING UP

Pyramid Lake Fishout, March 15th-21st, 2020
Fishmaster: Mike White - (831) 706-5556

The Pyramid Lake trip is one of the best-attended fishouts the club has, and for a good reason. Lahontan Cutthroat Trout cruise parallel to the shore in easy casting distance from shore. Cost for the week including meals and lodging and is around \$300-plus per person depending on the number in attendance. You need not fish all six days as there may be openings (usually later in the week.) Contact Mike for more details (831) 706-5556, to check on openings, or be put on a waiting list. First come first served.

You can also make your own arrangements either by bringing your own RV (Pyramid Lake Lodge has hook-ups and sells permits to park on the any of the beaches along the lake) or staying in Reno. Reno is 45 minutes away. Call Pyramid Lake Lodge to inquire about last minute cancellations in their cabins as well (775) 476-0400 and check out their website to see what the cabins look like at www.pyramidlake-lodge.com. The General Store in Sutcliff offers meals on selected nights only to those who call in before 2:00 PM. Check at the General Store for details.

Equipment: 6-9 weight rods with hi-speed, hi-D shooting heads or fast sink integrated lines to fish the bottom in 6 to 9 feet of water, and a floating line for indicator fishing. You should bring a stripping basket and a ladder that will accommodate it. A ladder helps to get you up out of the cold water and enables you to cast out to where the fish are. You can still catch fish without one but not with nearly as much consistency.

Flies: Woolly buggers in black, white, purple, olive, midge, caddis and mayfly nymphs to name a few. Flies may also available from club member Jim Hall who ties some very good flies specific to Pyramid cutthroat as well as other species at reasonable cost. His number is (831) 713-6835. There is a general store with provisions as well as tackle and an assortment of flies.

How to get there: Take US 80 to Reno-Sparks, take the Pyramid Blvd. off ramp and go north about 35 miles. Crosby Lodge is at Sutcliff, near the Ranger Station.

If you have any questions about equipment or how to get there, check the "Gearing up" columns in the March 2007-2009 archives on our great club website, or call Mike White at (831) 706-5556.

If you are considering going to Pyramid again this year with the club and you have not already done so, please contact the person who is booking the trailer you stayed in last year. Trailer-masters, if your trailer has gaps or cancellations, you can call Mike so he can pass the names of members who don't have lodging to fill the empty spots.

Fishing, Camping, and New Ladder Regulation: Fishing and camping permits can be purchased online prior to the fish-out. We would highly recommend doing this. Go to www.plpt.nsn.us to obtain your licenses. There is also an RV Park available at (775) 476-1155.

As with any great fishery there are always a long list of rules and regulations. We would recommend you review them on the website above. Suffice to say those of us who have been going to Pyramid Lake for many years are a good source of information as well. We will help inform and guide all newcomers.

15.6 USE OF LADDERS, ETC. Any ladders, milk crates, boxes or other objects used in the water as a fishing aid must be occupied or closely attended (i.e. remain in the area) by fishermen at all times. Any person who leaves such objects unoccupied in the water for more than one hour will be deemed guilty of littering. 15.6.1 Fishing aids described above must have a permanent tag affixed that has the name, address, and phone number of the owner of the fishing aid. If the permitted angler using the fishing aid is not the owner, the owner will be the responsible party for any infractions by

the permitted angler.

Last year I observed people parked closer than 100 feet to the lake. I asked several of them about it, and the response was the Rangers weren't enforcing it. This prompted me to contact the lead Ranger by phone. He said, "We are most definitely going to enforce the 100-foot ordinance!" So, when parking your vehicle, you must be a minimum of 100 feet from the lake's water line. Also, you need a permanent tag affixed to your ladder with your name, address, and phone number on it. Most of us who use fiberglass ladders use a heavy black magic marker to write the necessary information directly on the ladder. There are also tags which can be purchased from local fly shops, for a fee.

This year I have four trailers reserved. (6,7,8, and 9) As of November 1st 2019 all trailers are full. Of course, we will always try to accommodate any newcomers, so contact Mike at (831) 706-5556 and we will figure out a way for you to experience the thrill of catching a 10-plus pound LCT. You can always make your own arrangements by contacting the Pyramid Lake Lodge at (775) 476-0400. Mike White (831) 706-5556, lumberguy73@hotmail.com

NOTE: Due to insurance regulations, all attendees must be paid up members of Santa Cruz Fly fishermen, so get your membership paid up if you haven't done so yet.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Brown Flex Floss Midge

Pyramid is right around the corner. Large midges, foam beetles and Woolly Buggers are usually what are needed to catch one of those beautiful Cutthroat Trout that can weigh up to 20 lbs. This midge has proven to be a winner in the past.

Hook: TMC 2457 size 8 - 10
Bead: Silver or nickel
Thread: Tan 6/0, color is very important
Rib: Gold wire
Body: Tan Flex Floss
Coating: Sally Hansens "Hard as Nails" clear nail polish
Collar: Peacock herl



1. Crimp barb.
2. Slip bead onto hook, small hole first.
3. Attach thread behind bead.
4. Put tip of wire into back of bead. Using touching thread wraps, attach to top of shank to part way around hook bend.
5. Wrap thread back to bead.
6. Tie floss in behind bead. Pulling slightly on floss, wrap to rear in touching wraps to part way around hook bend then back to bead. Tie off, cut excess.
7. Spiral wire forward, increasing space between wraps in 6 - 7 wraps. Make 2 more wraps behind bead, tie off, then twist to break.
8. Apply a coat of nail polish, allow to dry.
9. Using one herl, break off the fragile tip and tie in. Make a chenille using a thread loop. Wrap a collar snug against the bead using 2 - 4 wraps. Tie off, cut excess.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Sand Dabs

From www.foodnetwork.com

Ingredients:

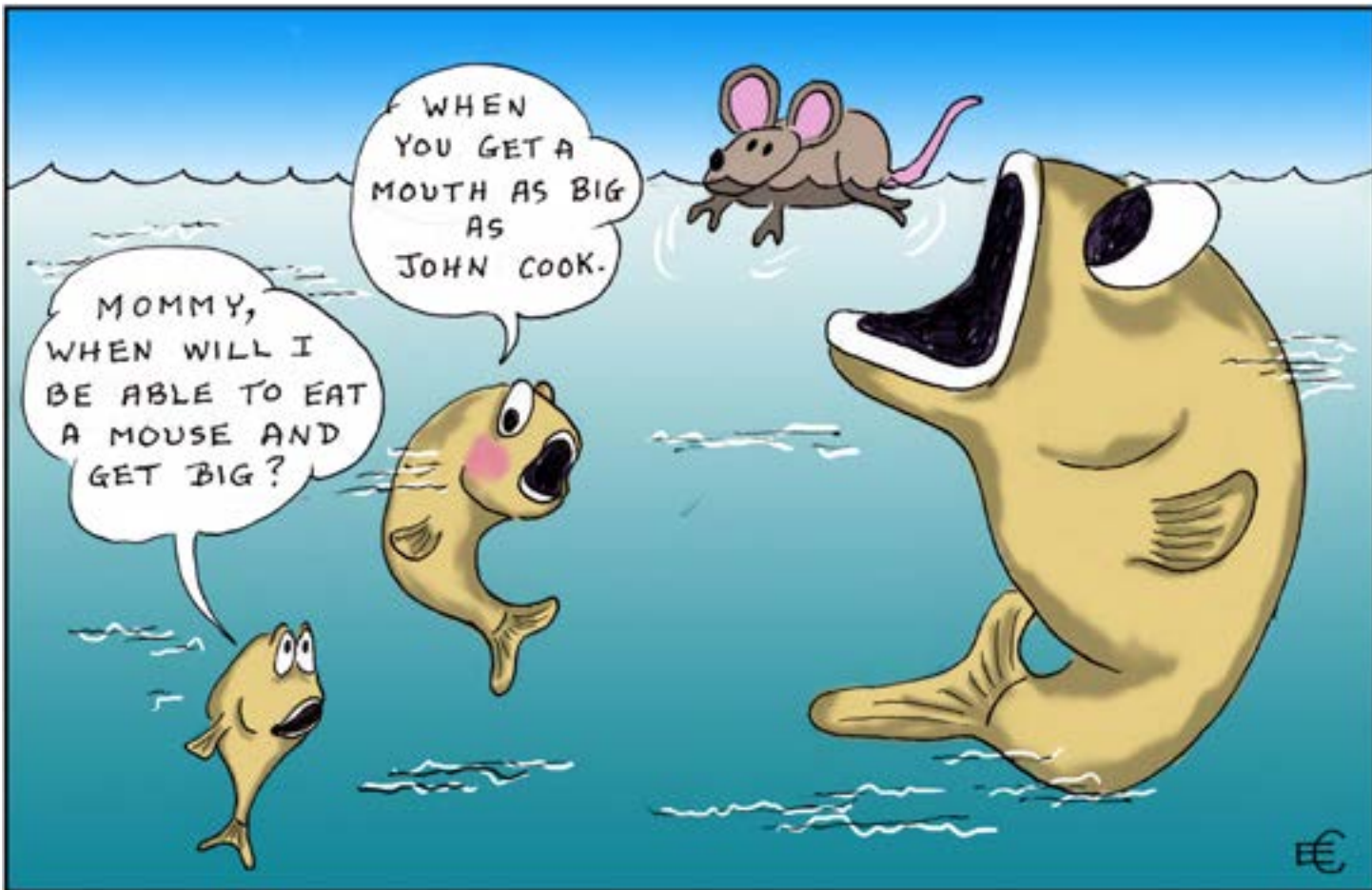
20-25 sand dabs
4 cups cracker meal (seasoned with salt, pepper and garlic powder)
Cooking oil, for frying
Salt and pepper
Chopped parsley leaves, for garnish
Lemon wedges

Directions:

Coat the fillets on both sides with seasoned cracker meal. Heat about 4 to 6 tablespoons of cooking oil in a large shallow pan. Add sand dabs and fry over medium heat for 1 to 2 minutes on each side. Remove the fillets with a spatula and place on a warmed serving platter. Use a little of the pan juices to pour over the fish. Keep them hot. Fry the remaining fillets, adding more oil if needed. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, to taste, and garnish with the parsley. Add lemon wedges and serve immediately.



Happy Valentine's Day



FIN FLUTTER



FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>1st Qtr.</i> ☾
2	3	4	5 Club Meeting Aptos Grange 7 PM	6	7	8
9 <i>FullMoon</i> ☽	10	11	12 Fly Tying Class Aptos Grange 7 PM	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 <i>LastQtr.</i> ☾
16	17 President's Day	18	19 Board Meeting Steele Home 7 PM	20	21 Pleasanton ←	22 Fly Show
23 <i>NewMoon</i> ● Pleasanton Fly Show →	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <i>1st Qtr.</i> ☾	3	4 Club Meeting Aptos Grange 7 PM	5	6	7 Fly Tying Class Cook home
8 Fly Tying Class Cook home	9 <i>FullMoon</i> ☽	10	11	12	13	14
15 Pyramid ←	16 <i>LastQtr.</i> ☾ Lake Fishout	17	18 Board Meeting Steele Home 7 PM	19	20	21 →
22	23	24 <i>NewMoon</i> ●	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				