

April 2020



Club Meeting

Date: April 1, 2020
Time: Anytime you want
Place: YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qh1rYvV>

Hello my fellow big stick fly line, fly tying, fly flippin enthusiasts. For what is probably the first time in the 43 year history of the SCFF, we have had to cancel our April meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic forcing us to shelter-in place and wait out the storm.

I found this beautiful adventure of two people heading across the country to spend a summer fly-fishing in Montana. The photos and video are spectacular and include fish, fur and feather. No this is not the typical adventure that John and Elaine Cook do every summer, but it could very well be, or be you – or me – next!!

I invite you to turn on your TV, grab some popcorn and a refreshment – say “youtube” and settle into your most comfortable place and enjoy this nearly 1 hour escape.

You can also visit www.tightloopsfly.com

Wishing all of you good health and looking forward to gathering again soon.

Fly Tying Class

Cancelled!

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, our class is canceled. I’ll bet the bass are real happy! As for other future fly tying classes, we will have to play it by ear, one month at a time. With your spare time, whip out a few of the “Fly of the Month” patterns. Good time to clean reels and lines. Add a new leader and tippet. And follow the dictate of Steve Rudzinski and sharpen those clouser hooks. Stay safe and well.

Fly Tying Videos

Watch fly tying videos on our new website
<https://santacruzflyfishing.org/fly-tying-videos>

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President's Line
Social Distance Casting
by your President Tom Hogy

In 1992 I was at the Ed Rice Fly Fishing Show with Mona. We were still practically newly-weds and had recently seen *A River Runs Through It*, in the movie theatre. As new comers to fly-fishing I was on overdrive soaking in everything as a guy who by today's standards had virtually nothing in my collection of all things fly-fishing. We were



taking in everything from fly-tying, gear, waders, flies, vests, hats, how I came to get my Filson cap, and guys and gals casting fly rods, like I'd just seen Brad Pitt do in the movie.

Mona and I befriended a guy at the Sage booth. At that time, I didn't know Sage from Orvis, from R.L. Winston, Thomas & Thomas,... They were all just really expensive and really beautiful. This guy was super nice. He grabbed a couple of rods and we went outside to do some casting. It was evening, but the casting pool was lit up. Fly lines shimmering and floating in the night sky against the bright lights. We were having a blast and learning a lot, watching the line, practicing and practicing. When we asked his name, he said it was Randy Swisher. I commented, 'Swisher?! You mean like, Doug Swisher?'

Yeah, That's my dad.

Wow – I was hooked. When we went back inside, I asked him about the rod I was casting. It was a beautiful deep bluegreen graphite Sage SP. Mona said I did have a birthday coming up soon, and Randy offered up his employee discount and threw in the rod tube.

I've loved that rod and at the price you pay for a rod like that, even 28 years ago – you take care of it.

Well I broke it last summer and was crushed. I was worried that part of the rod wasn't even available anymore. But the long and the short

of it, is they did. Sage treated me like it was one of my kids. They repaired the rod and had it back to me in a few weeks.

“Social Distance”. Two words none of us have ever thought of putting together before. In an unprecedented health crisis, none of us saw any of this coming. Although I did hear a 2015 TED

talk with Bill Gates who warned us of just such a disaster. Wow. Anyway, I am, like all of us, at home, working to be responsible so as to mitigate this health crisis. We are certainly going to be a different world in the future, and preparing our “kit bags” for many different things we never really thought of before, will become the new norm. Teachers will now have to prepare for their classes each year, with an on-line curriculum, just in case. Hospitals, government, manufacturing, finance, business in general will have to have a disaster plan that now may include some sort of crisis unforeseen. Probably all good ideas, but hard to manage now -unless you're Walmart, Clorox, Charmin or Amazon.

It was really hard canceling the April meeting and equally hard having to cancel the board meeting.

As we are at home, I do recall one of the instructions is to “get outside”! I've seen more people walking their dogs, or just walking together than I've ever seen before. I painted the laundry room and have been fixing some fences. Went for a bike ride. I took inventory of all my fly-fishing gear. I cleaned my fly lines and rigged up some two fly leaders for surf perch/Striper fishing in the near future. I organized my fly-tying and spun up a couple of bugs for the summer I'm very much looking forward to. My rod came back! Get Outside! Okay – that's where you can practice Social Distance Casting!

continued...

Membership Notes

Social Distance Casting, cont'd

The grass is green at the parks, and it's legal/okay to go to the park. You had time to clean your line and maybe even clean up your favorite stick. A good time to get out and practice your line control, with a little dab of yarn, and do something different. If you're in the park waving a nine foot long stick with a long colorful string on the end of it, chances are, people are gonna stay way clear of you. Much more than six feet.

Stay well my friends. Hang in there and all of us at SCFF are wishing everyone good health so we get through this together and get back to having fun together. We are going to appreciate that more than ever before.

Cast away – everything!

– Tom

150 active dues members for 2020

by Bob Peterson

Over 150 members have submitted over \$5,000 in dues and additional \$1,300 in donations for scholarships and conservation. New 2020 rosters will go to the printers and be available at the April meeting. Please email/txt me and I will mail you a roster. Thank you Scott Kitayama for helping with Google Groups.



Conservation Concerns

by Steve "Conservation Slim" Rudzinski

My first attempt to navigate the new system and thanking Vicki for patience and giving me an idea for a new name for my title and position with the organization.

I wanted to share the letter I got from the volunteers and friends who are working hard to save the last wild river system all the way to the headwaters where the largest open pit copper and gold mine is slated, approved and rejected and near approval again and up to Washington at this stage. Our members approved a donation to saving Bristol Bay and also honoring the name and legend of a fallen friend, guide and fisherman who lost his life in Alaska rafting a wild American Creek, he was not found and we donated his speakers fee to the charity in his name, This is for you John Squires and your wife Vicki and children and giant dog who miss him very much.



Other news is that although listed as being in our county off Laurel Glen Rd, the new 5 G tower was rejected by residents in the area I learned but calling the glass studio next door to where the tower was said to be located the owner said its not going

up now. Santa Cruz County is so far opposed to the spread of 5G at this time. Nearest tower is across from SJ City Hall or Hollister. Fresno seems to have the most activity in CA at this time.

As Scoop once said at the end of all his years of alternative radio news, "If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own". Peace and stay well,

– 'Conservation Slim'

2020 Board Members

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

Fly Tying Master: Elaine Cook 688-1561
 Fly Casting Master: Sam Bishop 476-6451
 Marketing/Publicity: Michael McGannon 688-3025
 Facilities Coordinator: Stephen Rawson 588-9370

Raffle Coordinator: Jeff Goyert 462-3785
 Membership: Bob Peterson 251-8655
 Fishouts: John Cook 688-1561
 Programs: Jim Black 688-8174
 Conservation: Steve Rudzinski 462-4532
 Newsletter Editor: Position Vacant as of March 1st

Annual Fundraiser Coordinators:
 Dinner - David South 713-5866
 Raffle/Silent Auction: Kevin Murdock 688-4518

Members At Large:
 Kathy Powers, John Steele, Pat Steele

Fishout Schedule

Date	Location	Target Species	Fishmater	Sign Ups
Apr - May	Bourdet Ranch	Bass and Bluegill	Cecilia Stipes - 335-5727	call now to get on list for short notice
April 17-19	Roostercomb Ranch	Bass and Bluegill	Cecilia Stipes - 335-5727	
Apr. 25th	Los Padres Reservoir	Trout	Roy Gunter - 809-0316	
May 1-3	Roostercomb Ranch	Bass and Bluegill	Cecilia Stipes - 335-5727	
May 9th-05:50	Rio Del Mar Beach	Surf Perch & Stripers	Sam Bishop - 476-6451	
May 31	Quail Hollow	Public Outreach	Kevin Murdock-688-4518	
June 6th-0535	Palm Beach	Surf Perch & Stripers	Sam Bishop - 476-6451	cell-274-4024
July 11-17	Green River, Utah		John Steele - 476-0648	
July 12-0545	Manresa Beach	Surf Perch & Stripers	Mark Traugott-338-6056	
July - 12-16	Loreto, Baja, Mexico		Rich Hughett - 757-5709	
Aug. 8th -0600	Rio Del Mar Beach		Sam Bishop - 476-6451	cell-274-4024
Sep. 5-0630	Manresa Beach	Surf Perch & Stripers	Sam Bishop - 476-6451	cell-274-4024
Sep. 19-26	Mammoth Lakes #1	Trout	John Cook - 688-1561	April 22
Sep. 26-Oct. 3	Mammoth Lakes #2	Trout	John Cook - 688-1561	April 22
Oct. 11-0700	Palm Beach	Surf Perch & Stripers	Mark Traugott-338-6056	
Oct. 15-18	O'Neill Forebay	Striped Bass	Steve Rudzinski-462-4532	Oct. 7 Club Meeting

Gearing Up

Bourdet Ranch

Cecilia Stipes 831-335-5727 flyfishgal3@aol.com

For anyone who would like to bass fish, I am offering day trips to the Bourdet Ranch in Hollister across from Casa de Fruta Restaurant on Hwy 152. Dates to be announced as we approach bass spawning season (April through May, sometimes into June).

This is a really good opportunity for new fly fishers to learn skills quickly on ponds where blue gill and bass are eager to take your flies. Each trip will be limited to six fishers, non-fishers are welcome. Cost \$75/per son. 4-WD vehicle is required, you will fish from float tubes and need fins. (I have extra tubes to lend).

I am creating a list with names from which to call once I pin down dates. If you are interested, please email or call me with your name and phone number.

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 21th 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. Make check payable to Cecilia Stipes, 328 Capelli Drive, Felton, CA 95018

Gearing Up

Los Padres Fishout - April 25th, 2020

Fishmaster: Roy Gunter-809-0316 - rgunteriii@yahoo.com

Los Padres Reservoir is located East of Carmel Valley Village. The best route is Carmel Valley Road East about 8 miles to a right turn on Cachagua Road to a right turn into and through Princess Camp then about .5 miles to the Reservoir parking lot. You have to carry your float tube about .5 miles into the reservoir and launch from the dam. Lake is about a mile long. Best to arrive before day-break. Parking lot usually fills up opening day. **DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS VISIBLE WITHIN YOUR VEHICLE OR ON THE SHORE.**

Fishing is very similar to Goodwin Lake: very few hits on the surface; use long sinking lines (I like Rio T-11 or Type 7); must pinch barbs (Fish and Game enforcement very active at reservoir); flies sizes 8 and 10 hooks, types black and brown woolly buggers, Denny Rikards seal buggers (orange, olive and black) and leeches



(brown and black), Hale Bopp leeches (black, brown and wine) and Hornburgs.

No signups necessary, anyone wishing to fish should just show up and if you can find me on the reservoir say "Hi" and ask where to fish. In general, fish in 10 to 20-foot depths. There are huge brown trout, rainbows up to 24" and a chance to catch steel-head much bigger.

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. Make check payable to Cecilia Stipes, 328 Capelli Drive, Felton, CA 95018

Gearing Up

Fly Fishing 101: Public Education Day May 31, 2020, 10:00am - 4:00pm Quail Hollow Ranch



This is an annual Fly Club tradition. The event is hosted in conjunction with the Santa Cruz County Parks, Education and Conservation Program. Our club and the sport of fly fishing is recognized for taking care of our environment and passing on a conservation legacy. Quail Hollow Ranch is a beautiful mountain park acquired by the county in the mid 80s. It features a 300-acre preserve that was once the home to Ohlone Indians, Spanish ranchers, even the headquarters for Sunset Magazine. Now it is home to a few horses, a natural history center and a spring-fed “untouchable” bass and bluegill pond. Don’t forget the binoculars, as this is a major stop on the bird watchers circuit. The Ranch is located above Felton, about a mile up Zayante Rd., a left turn just past the old Trout Farm Inn.

The day is geared toward introducing and educating the public as to why the members of our club are so hooked on fly fishing. Fly Fish-

ing 101 will be taught by a member expert in the morning, followed by casting lessons in the morning and in the afternoon. There will also be fly tying demonstrations

Kids and grandkids are especially welcome, so bring them along. They are the future of both fly fishing and conservation, so it’s important to expose them to the sport. This event is all going to happen rain or shine. Everything is provided for fly casting, rods and reels, and hookless yarn flies. There will be fly tying demonstrations as well. This will be a great club event, with a special invitation to all members to come out and represent what we’re all about. Members who attend should be sporting some club attire, like one of our baseball caps, a T-shirt, or a casting shirt with our logo on it, and your name tag, so guests can tell who we are. There’ll be a BBQ lunch for everyone. Tell a friend and bring a friend to Fly Fishing 101 at Quail Hollow Ranch,

Gearing Up

The Green River, Utah - July 11-17, 2020 (Saturday through the following Friday)

Fishmaster: John Steele - 831-476-0648 - owlspad@me.com

The Green River has its head-waters in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, and is the largest tributary of the Colorado River. It reemerges from Flaming Gorge Reservoir Dam, situated in the northeast corner of Utah, and the tailwaters are where our group will fish. The water released from the dam is regulated to maintain an optimum temperature and flow that has created a world-famous blue-ribbon trout fishery. It carves its way through a spectacular red rock canyon and is the home of a healthy number of large brown and rainbow trout. It is rare to catch one under 16 inches, and not uncommon to catch several over 20 inches.



You can walk a well-maintained trail along the river and bank fish, and/or book a guide to drift the river. The Trout Creek Flies and On The Fly guides are all very competent, excellent teachers, and provide all your terminal tackle, plus a delicious riverside lunch.

Lodging for some of the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen group will be at Trout Creek Flies Lodge, which has cabins that can accommodate up to four fish-ers each, and have mini-fridges and microwaves, and there is an on-site restaurant. John has reserved two cab-ins thus far, so you wish to stay there, please call Trout Creek at 435-885-3355, and tell them you are with the Steele group. There are other lodging options in the area, namely, Flaming Gorge, (435) 889-3773, and Red Canyon Lodge, (435) 889-3759, and other dining opportunities as well. Your accommodations are up to you to reserve.

If you intend to go on this fishout, please let John know, so he can determine how to schedule guides. At this time of year, both accommodations and guide books fill up, so if your summer-time plans include the Green River, call John ASAP

Gearing Up

Loreto Fly Fishing Trip - July 12-16, 2020

Fishmaster: Rich Hughett - 831-757-5709

Sign Up Now! Experience a new HIGH! Fish for Dorado, and many other salt-water fish, including Bonito, Roosters, Yellowtail and Sailfish on a fly! Join the group going to Loreto in Baja from Sunday, July 12th through Thursday, July 16th. This trip includes:



- Four nights at the beautiful Hotel La Mision, on the water-front next to Loreto Harbor.
- Three days of fishing on 24-foot Super Pangas, with fly fish-ing guides.
- Ground transfers and fishing licenses.

It does not include meals, because there are some nice restaurants (A lot of fresh sea-

food!) in town or if you prefer, eat at the hotel, where they will cook your catch.

The fishing day starts around 6:00 a.m. and we usually get back to the harbor between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. Spend the rest of the afternoon fishing from the beach, having

a cool drink in the pool, exploring Loreto, or just sitting around telling some tall fish stories. And, you will have many exciting moments on the Sea of Cortez to talk about.

The approximate cost for everything but meals and airfare is: \$900.00 per person (double occupancy). Interested? Please contact Rich Hughett, 831-757-5709, for all the details. You will need to book airline flights* as soon as possible. No advance payment needed.

Monthly Raffle

Good things come to all that wait

by Prize Guy, Jeff Goyert

Just a little tease for the next club raffle. The big prize will be a 10 ft. 3wt Echo Carbon XL Euro Nymph rod with a Rio Euro Nymph sighted leader with tippet ring. Along with these will be the DVD by Devine Olsen on how the whole Euro Nymph thing works. If you ever thought about trying this, now is your chance.



Fly of the Month

Shad Dart

by Fly Tying Master, Elaine Cook

This, easy to tie, fly pattern has many material and color variations. Try using it for shad in rivers or perch in the surf. Shad fishing is right around the corner. And of course perch can be targeted usually in spring, summer and fall. Our surf fishouts will begin soon and may be an acceptable CDC outing due to the ability to practice social distancing of 6 feet or more.



- Hook: Mustad 34007 or Eagle Claw 253SS, sizes 4-10
 - Thread: 6/0, color to match head
 - Eyes: med size bead chain
 - Tail: marabou or calf tail, red, orange or white
 - Flash and Body: crystal flash, red, orange or pear
 - Head: sm. chenille or crystal chenille, red or orange
 - Coating: Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails nail polish
 - Glue: Supper Glue, Zap-A-Gap or similar
1. Crimp barb.
 2. Attach thread behind hook eye. Touching wraps to mid shank then forward to 2 eye lengths behind eye.
 3. Tie in bead chain eyes on top of shank with many crisis-cross wraps and circular wraps below balls but above shank. Apply glue. Position thread at rear of shank.
 4. Use sm. amt. tail material. If calf tail, clean out underfur. Position material on top of shank. Tips, shank length to rear. Tie in place up to bead chain. Cut excess.
 5. Using 3 strands of crystal flash, bend in half forming a loop. Tie to top of shank with loop extending to tip of tail. Position thread behind bead chain. Wet strands. With touching wraps, wrap forward to bead chain, then back to tail, then forward again. Tie off, cut excess. Cut loop. Apply glue to body.
 6. Remove some fibers from end of chenille. Tie in strings behind bead chain. Position thread in front of bead chain. wrap chenille around both beads forming a round head. tie off, cut excess. Multiple thread wraps behind hook eye. Tie off, cut thread. Apply glue.
 7. Coat body and tie off thread wraps with Sally Hansen's.



Gone Fishing

Bahamas

by Pat Steel

This trip was a weird one, from beginning to end. The first glitch came when I got the notice to check in. I did so, and obtained my boarding pass. I tried to get John's pass as well, but he was not listed as a passenger on the same locator number, which was odd. No matter what search criteria I used, I could not find John. John finally resorted to calling the airline, and to his dismay, he was not ticketed, so after spending all afternoon on the phone, he finally managed to get a last-minute ticket.

We got the same flight, although not seated together, and arrived in Atlanta, spent the night as planned, and flew out to Georgetown Exuma the following morning.

We picked up a small car at the airport. We noted several scratches on the right front door of the vehicle. We stopped by a deli to get some lunch provisions, and when we came back out to the car, we noticed a big dent on the same side of the car as the scratches. John was afraid we would be held accountable for the dent, but it was rusty and had obviously



happened before we rented the car. A lady saw us walking around the car, fretting, and came out. She offered to call the car rental place to tell them about the dent, as she was related to the owner of the rental agency. She squared things up with them, and we went on our way.

Tom Pelikan and Noelle Nichols had gotten to Exuma several days before us, and they reported they had had a good day's fishing, so we anticipated something similar. That was not to be. The weather was so windy our guide, Drex Rolle, called

us to cancel our first day's fishing. We spent the first three days hunkered down, waiting for conditions to improve. We finally got to go out, John went up to bat first. Try as he might, he couldn't seem to work line out or get any distance on his casts. Drex coached him, and finally took the rod to demonstrate, much to John's chagrin. Drex caught a mangrove on his back cast, wiggled the line to get it loose, only to have the tip section come off the end of the rod.



Continued...

Bahamas, continued...

He carefully retrieved the rod tip, and discovered it had fractured right above the ferrule. Fortunately, we had my Orvis Helios II, which John used for the rest of the day. I only got up briefly all day. I think John got two fish, tagged a few more but did not land them. It was a pretty scanty day.

The next time we went out a couple of days later, I caught a good-sized bone fish on my second cast. We thought, hoo, boy, it's going to be a great day if this keeps up! It didn't. John didn't score until after lunch. There were the few schoolies after that, but nothing to write home about.

We had a third day out, but again, the fishing was not that productive. Tom and Noelle had to leave before we were to depart, so John offered to take them to the airport. After dropping them off, he went over to the car rental agency to thank them for being so nice about the dent. No good deed goes unpunished. He backed into a post behind the car and put a sizable dent in the bumper!

We spent the rest of our time resting, reading, and watching the COVID-19 crisis unfold. We were worried we wouldn't be able to get back into the USA. It came time for us to try to fly home. We got back out to the airport, checked the car in and John settled the bumper issue with the rental agency. We got in line to check in. John suddenly discovered he did not have his passport! He ran back across the street to the car rental agency to look for it. I got out of line and piled our bags in the corner. I waited, almost in tears, not knowing what he was doing. He was gone for almost an hour, and his phone was left in my bag, so I had no idea what was going on.



He finally came running back in, having found the passport back at our bungalow, on the bathroom floor. We checked in, and got aboard, and flew in to Atlanta. We were supposed to fly out to LAX and then on to SJC after clearing customs. We got aboard a nice, cushy 777, but they couldn't start the starboard engine. They fiddled with it for over an hour before pushing us back to the gate and making us get off.

The time for our connections had long since lapsed, so we had to rebook with the gate agents. They couldn't get us home that same night, so they gave us hotel vouchers, and booked us on a morning flight straight through to SJC.

We stayed in the airport Westin in Atlanta. We left instructions for a wakeup call for 6 AM. Not only did they not call, the room clock had not been reset for EDT, so when we did arise, we only had 30 minutes to jump on the shuttle and get ourselves over to the airport, go through TSA, and get on the west-bound flight. It was eerie. We were on a 737, and counting us, there were only 20 passengers on the flight.

This isn't so much an article about fishing as it is a caveat for anyone planning any trips in the near future. We can't fault the good people of Exuma, they took very good care of us, fed us well, and did their level best to make our vacation enjoyable. Nobody has control on fishing, nature or a pandemic. All we can do is cope, use good sense, wash our hands, stay home and pray this latest crisis resolves itself. For now, we are just happy to be home, safe and well!