

RING OF THE RISE

SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SSFF club just had another outstanding outing to Mammoth. We fished the San Joaquin River and Crowley Lake. Read all about this outing below. New members joining us on this outing gained new fly fishing techniques and enjoyed the experience of the club. These new members are becoming the core group on our outings. They know a fun time will be had! The club has resident experts in all aspects of fly fishing: stillwater, nymphing, dry fly, streamer, Tenkara, spey, salt, etc. If you are a novice or want to brush up on your skills, come join us on an outing. Be a shining apple and become one of our “core” members! LOL!

The California Fly Fishing Open is just a few weeks away. It is our biggest event and will be held on September 22nd. We'll have everything we had last year, plus some new team games for everyone's fun and enjoyment. Guy's band, the Stoneflies, and Bernard's band, Par Avion, will be providing the musical entertainment. Freddie will be doing his famous BBQ and we'll have vendors galore. Don't miss the Team Parade! You can participate on the Team SSFFC or join in on the afternoon activities. Go to our website, sign up, and start practicing for our Heads or Tails game for a new custom-built Winston rod. Everyone in attendance is eligible to play for the Winston rod.

The Club is mentoring a Veteran's group based in the Antelope Valley. We will assist them with a fly fishing class and introduce them to the Kern River on Sept. 29th and Oct. 6th. Twenty-five Vets have already signed up and the club could use assistance in mentoring. Please, email Chiaki to volunteer in this worthwhile cause. The club enjoys helping our Veterans, as they have served us. There's a new section appearing this month's Ring of the Rise, Spotlight. You will get to know one of our Club members or it might be a well-known flyfisher. Heck, they aren't necessarily mutually exclusive. Appearing in the inaugural Spotlight is our long line nymphing expert Sergio Martinez. When he's not flyfishing, you'll find him volunteering in the Kern Valley Search and Rescue finding and saving lives. He's already saved my life twice.

Next month is full of activities with our Women's Class, Mentorship Day, the Southwest Council Fly Fishing Faire, and Jon Hart's Tenkara Class. The planning for next year's July Montana outing is coming along nicely. We will be fly fishing Rock Creek, a Blue Ribbon stream located in southwest Montana. You will have the option to drive or fly to our destination. Additional announcements will be made over the next eleven months, so stay tuned. The club is always open to new

suggestions for outings or classes. We are here for you! Otherwise, please join us on the many activities we provide. Come fish with us and have a fun time!

Chiaki

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Sergio Martinez

1. Retired or working. If working, what do you do?
Unfortunately, I still have some time before I retire. For my regular job, I work as an Environmental, Health and Safety Advisor in the Oil and Gas industry. In my spare time, I volunteer as a Search and Rescue EMT with the Kern County Sheriff's Office.
2. How did you get started in fly fishing?
Is "fly-fishing-peer-pressure" a thing? If so, that's how I got my start in fly fishing. I had the one friend that would always tell me that I need to fly fish and how great it is. I gave in, and fly-fished the East Walker River in 2011, and since then I was hooked! I came back to my home river, the Kern River, and only fly-fished from then on.
3. Did you have a mentor?
I did not have a mentor per say, but I did get some basic guidance from a friend (guide) that lived in Bridgeport. I live in Bakersfield, so I really had to learn most of it on my own. I think that's why I developed so many bad habits.
4. Describe your favorite style of fly fishing.
If you were to ask Chiaki, he would say I'm crazy, so I don't know if that

counts as a style. My friend from Bridgeport would tell me, "if you're not getting stuck/hitting bottom, you aren't fishing deep enough." So being the rookie I was, I was fly-fishing with long leaders, 12+ setups. Until this day, I still long line nymph.

5. What was your most memorable fly-fishing experience?
I'm going to have to say our 2014 vacation to the Woodward Cabin in Rock Creek Montana. Not just because we were fly fishing in Montana, but I got to spend a week with my dad and brother in Montana. The fishing was awesome, but the memories were even more memorable.
6. Why do I fly fish?
I usually have a pretty busy/hectic schedule because of work and SAR, but when I fly-fish, it serves as my rest and relaxation moment. Also, being a part of SSFFC has given me the opportunity to meet some awesome people, so we fish!
7. Music you've been listening to lately?
Mostly Mad Caddies

UPCOMING EVENTS



California Fly Fishing Open

Date: September 22, 2018

Location: Kernville, CA

Details: We will be hosting the 2nd annual CFFO, inviting all fly fishing clubs, individuals, and organizations. This event starts with a catch and release tournament in the morning. The afternoon is filled with raffles, vendors, two entertaining bands, a BBQ dinner, and a team parade. New this year will be special with games. We need members to fill a five person team representing SSFFC. We also need water helpers to assist the two Casting For Recovery teams. This event benefits Casting For Recovery and Kern Valley Search & Rescue. To sign up as a participant, a water helper, or for additional information, visit SSFFCLUB.ORG



A Call To Arms- Veteran's Event

Date: September 29, 2018, Palmdale

October 6, 2018, Kernville

Details: Our Club will be providing fly fishing instructions to our Country's veterans at the Antelope Valley Vet Center and the Kern River. We all know the feelings of spending time on the water and the mental relief it brings. On Saturday, Sept 29, we will be holding an Intro Fly Fishing Class at the Antelope Valley Vet Center in Palmdale. We will be teaching our vets fly casting, entomology, knots, conservation, and fly tying. On the following Saturday, October 6, they will put their newly acquired fly fishing knowledge to use on the Kern

River. We will be hosting and mentoring our vets, sharing fun time on the water. If you would like to help with this program or have any questions, contact [Chiaki Harami](#).



Women's Fly Fishing

Date: October 13, 2018

Location: Kernville, CA

Time: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cost: Membership fee of \$25

Details: We are super excited to bring back our second annual Women's Fly Fishing Clinic! We have an amazing line up of instructors from all over Southern California to teach the class. The day begins with a fun and easy yoga class designed to fire up those fly fishing muscles followed by classes in casting, entomology, fly tying, conservation, knots, and gear and tackle. The day ends with a lively Pint Night at Kern River Brewing.

Lunch is included in the class.

Please bring a yoga mat if you are attending the yoga class. And bring water shoes as we will be on the river for the casting class.

Contact ssffc.media@gmail.com for more details or to sign up.



Southern Sierra Fly Fishers

MENTORSHIP DAY

October 14

Women's Mentorship Day

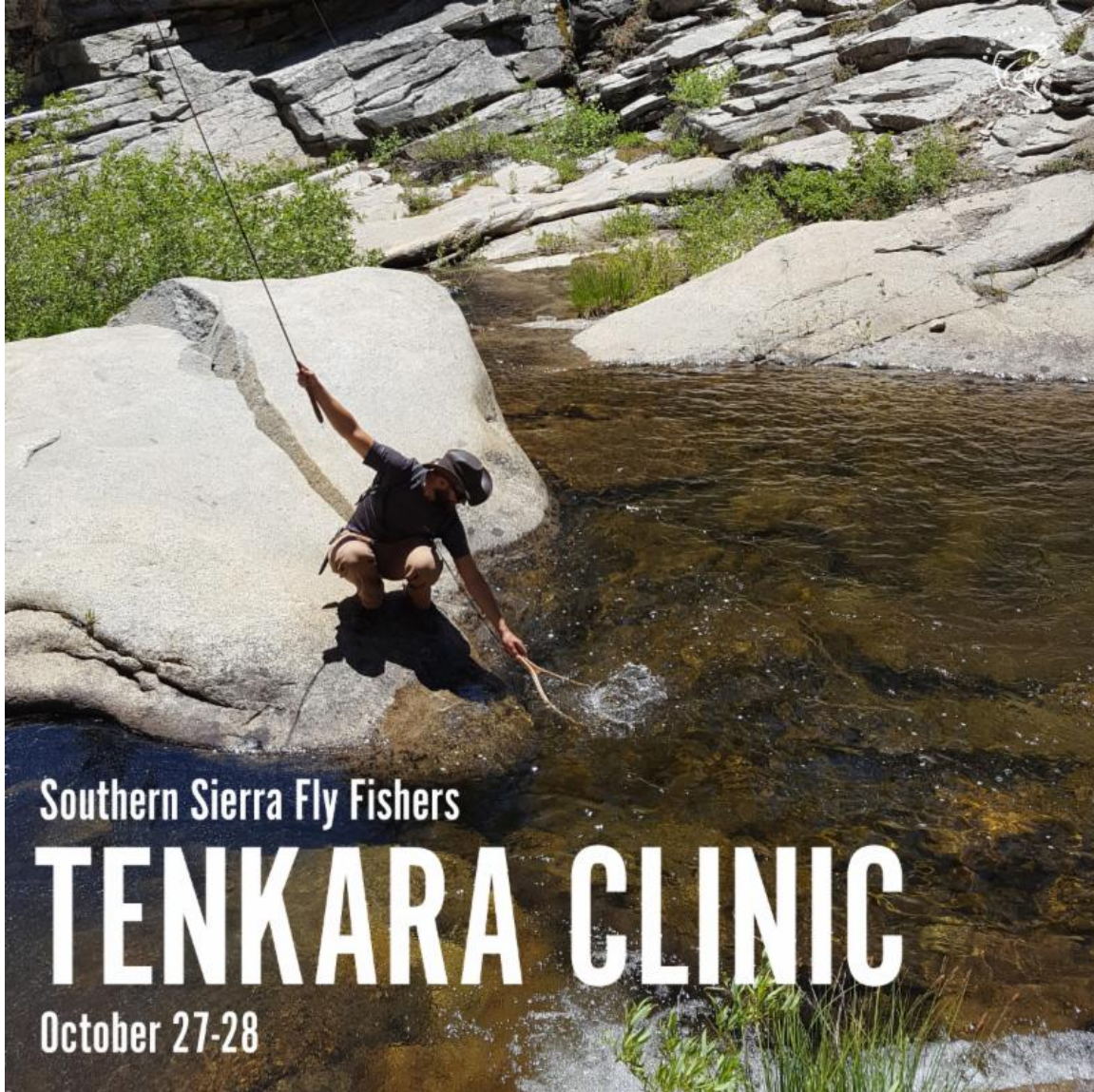
Date: October 14, 2018

Location: Kernville, CA

Time: 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

Details: This is an excellent opportunity to apply your newly learned classroom knowledge with actual time on the water. You will be fly fishing the Kern River with one of our club members or instructors from the previous day. This will immediately reinforce everything you learned in class. You'll also learn how to read the water for likely spots in the river holding fish. This mentor class is also open to Women's Class participant's family members and their significant others. A valid California fishing license is required. Please bring your own fly fishing gear, if you have one. If not, equipment rentals are available at the Fly Shop.

We will need members to volunteer to 'guide' our beginner anglers on the water. Please contact ssffc.media@gmail.com to sign up.



Tenkara Clinic

Date: October 13-14, 2018

Location: Kernville, CA

Details: Jon Hart from Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be leading a two part tenkara clinic. Tenkara is a simplified Japanese method of fly fishing, with gear consisting of a rod, line and fly, absent a reel. In the 1-hour evening session, covered topics will include an overview of tenkara, gear, techniques as well as tips and tricks. The following morning, a brief refresher will precede a 2-hour on the water session held at a TBD location, with opportunities for casting practice and personal instruction. If you have your own tenkara gear, feel free to bring it with you. Otherwise, gear will be provided for the duration of the class.

Evening presentation is open to the public. Membership is required for the morning clinic.

Contact ssffc.media@gmail.com to sign up.

SWC Fly Fishing Faire

Date: October 20-21, 2018

Location: Glendale, CA

[More Info](#)



EVENTS RECAP



Kids Academy II

by Chiaki Harami

This is the first time SSFFC held 2 Kid's Academy in the same year. In our second Academy, we had a full class of 15 eager youngsters who absorbed everything that was taught. The learning stations consisted of Casting, Entomology, Conservation, Etiquette, Fly Tying, and Knots. These young folks learned quickly, as we moved from station to station. After a fun pizza lunch a graduation ceremony followed. Laughter and smiles were displayed all day long.

Our fund raising efforts from last year's Poker Night paid off as each child earned a fly fishing outfit, including a rod, reel, line and case.

Special thanks go out to the instructors: Celine, Tim, Travis, Derek, Marisol, Sergio, Chiaki and some of the parents and grandparents for their outstanding work. Our youth are the future of our amazing sport of fly fishing. Look out everyone, here comes another 15 kids into the world of fly fishing.



Mammoth Outing

by Matt Romero

With Mammoth being my first club outing, the bar has been set pretty high to say the least. Beautiful surroundings, perfect weather, great company and fish in the water. Day one on the San Joaquin was a great start with a nice morning hike and a little bushwhacking to the water. With my new 6' 2wt glass in hand, first pool, first fish on a #18 parachute ant. Beautiful 9" bow. From there hi-vis foam black ants in size #16 were easier to track in the current and produced just as well for a few nice browns. Ended up tying on a mini size #12 Chernobyl just for laughs and it too produced. With the surface action finished by mid afternoon, I started making my way back downstream swinging and stripping a self tied olive micro BH leech #16. 2 more browns to end the day, with 10 to the net in total. Day 2 on Crowley wasn't as successful. A couple missed dunks, one hookup/loss and a boatload of laughs still makes for an enjoyable day learning a new technique.

Naturally being a solo traveler, I honestly was hesitant about a club trip and how it was going to play out on this two day trip with a group (some of which, I've never met). But by the end of the weekend it felt like being in the company of friends and family. Truly amazing and genuine group to be associated with. Can't wait for our next get together.



Floating Nets

by Ryan Buhler

At a recent club outing to Lake Crowley, some of the boats in our group didn't have nets that floated. They soon found out the advantages of floating nets. The main advantage is it won't drop to the bottom of the lake. You can also rest your fish safely while you get your camera ready for a picture. It also provides a secure resting place to revive a fish for a safe release. There are some great floating nets on the market, but if you don't want to spend money on something you will only use once or twice a year there is an easy and inexpensive solution. Any foam will work and it doesn't take much foam to float a net. Most hardware stores have foam rolls that are split down the middle to fit over plumbing pipes. You can find them in the plumbing and heating section. One piece on both sides of the net will

be enough. Add one to the handle if it is long. Use inexpensive zip ties to secure the foam to your net. These zip ties can be easily removed-cut when foam is not needed. Save the foam for the next time a float net is needed. Easy and inexpensive.

CFR NEWS



CFFO

by Carole Ontiveros

The California Fly Fishing Open (Kernville Tournament) continues to be a favorite event of many Casting for Recovery Alumni. This is the first dedicated event where Alumni have the opportunity to fish on a river with a Water Helper after our May retreat. The women will come equipped with their rod/reel, lanyard, and fly box as given to them at the retreat through the generous support of southern California fly clubs, past alumni and individual donations. CfR So Cal will lend waders and boots. This year, our booth will feature a lively casting competition for a Renaissance rod and a raffle for a Redington reel. Come and join the fun! Some of the past tournament CfR Alumni share their thoughts on fly fishing during tournament time on the Kern River.

"The opportunity to fish the Kernville Tourney while representing CFR, was an experience too good to pass up. After all, CFR had taught me how so I joined in. I caught no fish but gained some friendships, support, laughs and more memories on this cancer journey." -Traci CFR, SoCal Alumni 2016

"The Kern River Fly Fishing Tournament is great fun. Especially for the CFR Alumni. As a past alumni participant, my experience in the tournament was one more way to experience fly fishing at it's best. The sound of the river, the events, the generosity of the volunteers, and the blue sky make it a day away for the

CFR Alumni Team. It also makes it one more day closer to healing."
-Sue CFR, SoCal Alumni 2015

"After attending the CFR retreat and feeling so thankful for the camaraderie of the fly fishing community, it was fantastic to get the opportunity to attend the FF Tournament. The tournament allows us to integrate and feel a part of the FF community that provided rods and other items to us. We get to meet the folks and establish a life time of relationships. This community makes us feel that we are part of something bigger than getting stuck, we recover and get a new lease on life moving forward. The Water Helpers help to reinforce the basic skills we learned and feel more comfortable in the water and using those skills. We can leave cancer behind and find a new passion in life. Enjoying the water and the beautiful environment." -Linda, CFR Alumni 2014

Many thanks to SSFFC for making Casting for Recovery, SoCal a past and present recipient of CFFO funds.

CONSERVATION NEWS



Dam Work on the West Fork San Gabriel

by Gary Applebee

The West Fork of the San Gabriel River is scheduled to have work done behind the Cogswell dam. The plan is to drain the reservoir behind Cogswell dam and remove the silt that has built up over the years. They will be trucking the sand down Highway 39. The LA County will put up a temporary dam and put pipes to redirect the water around the dam. The LA County says this will not effect the flows downstream from Cogswell dam.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been doing surveys on the West Fork during the summer to establish a base line for the stream. They have done snorkel surveys to determine the substrate and the fish in the stream. The DFW has broken the stream down into habitat units of riffle, flat water, pools, and runs. Each unit is measured for length, width, and depth. The units to be snorkeled are picked by a computer with a random selection program. When DFW is looking under the water they also look at the fish. They classify the fish by size, 0-3, 3-6, 6-9, 9-12, and bigger than 12 inches. They found a few fish that were bigger than twelve inches, and a healthy population of six to eight inches.

If you have fished the West Fork recently, then you know there are a lot of four inch fish in the stream. They have also found carp, sun fish, bass and even a gold fish from someones aquarium. This means that the stream is producing a healthy population of fish. Even after the low flows from the last few years of drought.

The DFW is also doing e-fishing surveys to determine the population in a reach. This is also done by sampling random sections that a computer has picked. This is done by setting up a set distance. Usually, 500 meters with a temporary block net above and below to get a controlled area. Then they e-fish the area by making three passes and netting the fish. Each pass has to have a dimensioning number of fish. They will weight and measure the fish to determine class size. They also look for things like fungus or other abnormal things to see the health of the fish. Sometimes they find fish with fins distorted or chewed on by invasive fish.

With this base line the DFW will be monitoring the stream while the LA County does the work behind the dam to make sure the fish have adequate flows to live in. They will also be taking other data like temperatures and clarity of the water during the course of the work to make sure the water doesn't heat up too much and cloud up with algae and other invasive vegetation.

When will we know the results of this survey? Probably not until next spring at the earliest. In the spring, summer, and fall they collect data. Then during the winter they work up the data. Since the West Fork is in the San Gabriel Monument area and all the public recreation that happens on the West Fork, there are no shortage of projects they have to monitor in the Monument area. After this study the DFW will have other field work they have to do on the East Fork and North Fork of the San Gabriel rivers.

Most of us haven't heard of this project. But it's time someone tell about the good they are doing. I have heard people talk smack about the DFW not doing enough for our fisheries. But I have worked with the DFW a lot. They are a hard bunch of working people. They want us to fish and work hard at making that happen.

INTO THE BACKING

Building Hope

by Allen Bell

"The story of this rod is amazing and the sheer joy Hope has given me has to be shared right up to and including the fish landed with Peter Carty on Hope. You have photos to prove it. When I held Hope her grip molded perfectly into my hand and she simply became an extension of my casting arm. Hope assisted me to get back out fly fishing with no pain or discomfort and she has taught me so many things." -Sherrie Feickert

What? Did someone just say that about me? Those are kind words in a big way. Honestly, I'm not sure I really deserve such high praise. All I did was to build some Hope. Well really I just built a fly rod I named Hope. God provided the real Hope.

This story begins a few years ago when SSFFC member, nice guy and habitual doer of good deeds, Pete Emmel got the rod builders in the club started building custom rods to be presented to breast cancer patients at a retreat on the Feather River for 'Casting For a Cure'. Many rods were built and given to the nice ladies. The next year, we started another round of rod building, but for whatever reasons, the event had to be stopped and I ended up with a blank. I know someone that has recovered from breast cancer, so why not just build the rod and give it to her. I'll call it Hope, base it on Romans 15:13, maybe it will make her happy.

By this time, I was learning to do more than just build a basic fly rod. So I fired up the lathe and off I went. Happily the build started, this was to be the only really happy part of the build. What could go wrong did. I quickly learned that maple is VERY hard wood and difficult to taper to fit a rod blank. Do not try using a drill either. Bad things happen with too much force applied to wood and cork. The wraps would fray or just come loose after they were done. All in all, I wrapped the rod or parts of the rod 5 times. I don't even want to think of the problems with the metallic trim wraps. I also had major problems with the finish. When I finally applied the epoxy to the wraps, it just wouldn't dry. WHAT???? I finally, with a little help, figured out the problem. All I had to do is strip everything off and start over, just what I was 'hoping' to do. So on the build goes, this time everything is smooth sailing. I can't contain my excitement as I prepare to cast the rod I have so much time and tears invested in. As I tried to clamp down the reel, I realized I had a problem. The reel spacer had been cut a bit too long and wouldn't allow the reel to tighten. I was crushed. After all this, a 30 second mistake had made this rod unusable. Someone just doesn't want this project completed. After some time and prayer, I started again, buy a new blank and just remake the butt section. At least by now I have the pattern down by heart. It doesn't have any of the cool little pink ribbon logos, I used the last of them long ago. Finally done, I applied the finish. It looks nice. When I took the rod off the turner, I noticed a small bug in a wrap. Oh well, we're fly fishers, we like bugs, it stays!!!

So, Hope complete and properly casted, time to contact the recipients. Not answering Emails. OK, call. Not answering messages. I see husband around town. Not setting up time to meet. I can't say I was surprised this wasn't going well. Nothing has so far. Finally, I realized that God has a plan. I don't know what it is, so all I really can do is move on. Hope sat on my building bench for around a year. Enter Ellen Daily. I had met Ellen through the Pink Fly donation with the Aguabonita Flyfishers. We became fast friends and had taken a fishing trip to Colorado to meet. We were planning our second adventure when I remembered she had been involved with a group called 'Stripping For a Cure'. I asked her if she could use a rod to raffle off or something. She was happy to get a rod, I was happy to get the rod out of my house. All good!!! When we got to the Owyhee River, I showed her Hope. She immediately told me of Sherrie Feickert and asked if she could have Hope. Fine with me, as long as someone is happy with my work, that's all I can ask.

After I returned from Idaho, off the rod went to New Zealand. I really felt good about this turn of events. Something felt right about this whole thing. Sherrie got the rod and seemed to really like it. The Emails I received were stories of Hope bringing hope. I had no idea the impact something like that could have on another person. I hadn't thought of a fly rod helping a recovery. What impacted me most was, I had no idea the size of fish my cheap little 4wt blank was going to have to

deal with!

So after all this I realized that God, in fact, did have a plan. All I had to do was be patient and let life happen in His time. Everything that happened up to this moment was as it had to be. When Sherrie would send me reports of her adventures with Hope, I was encouraged that she really did like my rod. As I found that her recovery was being enhanced, I was amazed.

Something so little to us can mean so much to someone else. I think sometimes we need to leave our comfort zone. I never considered myself a good enough rod builder to do a project for someone else. I still don't. I just wanted to make someone in a difficult situation happy, to make life a little easier for a short time. So with that, I give you Hope. Ever enduring, with the faith of a mustard seed, backed by the strength of the Everlasting God.

**Events may be cancelled or postponed due to weather, road and river conditions*

